



## **FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 2021**

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The Association of Former Students' Chair of the Board, Pat Beard '83, called the Fall Leadership Council Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the Zachry Family Rooms of the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. He welcomed nearly 200 members of the governing body of the Leadership Council in person and on Zoom, and thanked them for their dedication and service to The Association of Former Students. Beard recognized Grady Young '17 and Jeffrey Estes '06 from Salesforce, the newest chartered Corporate A&M Club, followed by ExxonMobil and Deloitte. He again congratulated the 2021 12 Under 12 Spotlight Award recipients honored at the Fall Leadership Council reception on November 5. Beard welcomed Gretchen VanValkenburg '86, Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Executive Director of the Auburn Alumni Association, and introduced the following speakers: Dr. Tim Scott '89, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President, Travis Dabney '96, President of the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation, Robert Dennis '83, 2021 Chair of the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation Board of Trustees, and Ross Bjork, Director of Athletics. Beard reported on the 2020 and 2021 Distinguished Alumni Gala, which was held on October 5 and recognized both the 2020 and 2021 honorees. The 2020 honorees were E. E. McQuillen, Class of 1920, Ray B. Nesbitt '55 and John C. Otto '70 (all posthumous). The 2021 honorees were Dr. C. M. Cocanougher '53 (posthumous), Weldon Jaynes '54, General Randolph House '67, R. Sam Torn '70, John D. White '70, Dr. R. Bowen Loftin '71, Carol E. Jordan '80, Willie T. Langston II '81, Tim Leach '82, Thomas J. Saylak '82, Mike Hernandez III '83, and Charean Williams '86. Beard recognized and thanked all veterans attending the meeting, then welcomed Megan Benzell '22, Corps of Cadets Chaplain, to give the invocation. Grady Young '17, with Salesforce, led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SPRING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2021. Carried. (Members of the Leadership Council who pre-registered for this meeting unanimously approved the minutes via prior online voting).

### **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY REPORT**

Beard introduced Dr. Tim Scott '89, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President at Texas A&M University, to give the Texas A&M University report. Scott thanked Porter S. Garner III '79, President and CEO of The Association of Former Students, for his leadership. He expressed his appreciation to the Leadership Council for their selfless service and dedicated support of The Association of Former Students' mission. Scott stated there is much excitement about the Aggie Park project. He reported on the Student Success Initiative, a program launched in 2019 to retain more students, increase four- and six-year graduation rates and decrease achievement disparities. He reported that since the program's

launch in 2019, the graduation rate for underrepresented students rose from 89% to 93%, first generation students rose from 87% to 91% and Pell Grant-eligible students rose from 86% to 92%.

## **12TH MAN FOUNDATION REPORT**

Travis Dabney '96, President and CEO of the 12th Man Foundation, expressed his appreciation to The Association of Former Students before extending his thanks to the Leadership Council for their support of The Association's mission. He reported that 12th Man Foundation donors continued to support Texas A&M Athletics throughout the COVID-19 pandemic although the seating capacity in Kyle Field was reduced to 25%, there was a reduction of revenue from hosting only four home games in 2020, and the cost of scholarships increased. Dabney stated 48,000 season ticket seats were sold this year, as well as a near record level for student sports passes at 37,602 seats. Dabney reported on the new 12th Man Foundation Gig 'em Pass, a voucher system offering customized ticket options with game experience flexibility.

## **ATHLETICS REPORT**

Ross Bjork, Texas A&M University's Director of Athletics, reported on the athletes' success in the classroom with a record-high cumulative GPA. He recognized the support of the 12th Man Foundation, with record high attendance at all sporting events and noted how that directly impacts the game atmosphere. Bjork stated there have been structural and leadership changes within the Department of Athletics, which are taking place at the same time that the NCAA is going through some organizational changes that will redefine college sports.

## **ASSOCIATION REPORT**

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Cathy Mann '92, Immediate Past Chair and Chair of the 2021 Nominating Committee, stated The Association of Former Students' Nominating Committee met in College Station on August 12, 2021 to nominate candidates to hold the following positions: Association Board of Directors, including the 2022 Chair Elect, Student Loan Fund Trustees, and Area and National Representatives. Mann presented the slate of candidates for The Association's 2022 Board of Directors, and announced that Cecilia González '81, and Johnita Jones '83 were nominated as new Board members.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS PRESENTED.** Carried. (Members of the Leadership Council who pre-registered for this meeting unanimously approved the candidates via prior online voting).

Mann also reported that George Nelson '64 was nominated for election as The Association of Former Students' 2022 Student Loan Fund Trustee.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE GEORGE NELSON '64 AS THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS' 2022 STUDENT LOAN FUND TRUSTEE.** Carried. (Members of the Leadership Council who pre-registered for this meeting unanimously approved him via prior online voting).

Mann stated the nominees for the 2022 Area and National Representatives will be presented for election by the general membership via a ballot distributed electronically, as well as in the November-December issue of *Texas Aggie*.

### **Finance Report**

Bobby Jenkins '81, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, presented the Finance Committee Report as Finance Committee Chair Jeff Steen '80 had a prior commitment and was unable to attend the meeting. Jenkins reported that as of September 30, 2021, The Association provided more than \$7M in mission services and support to Texas A&M and the Aggie Network across all funds, both restricted and unrestricted, \$2M in cash for scholarships and academic programs, and \$5.5M through programs administered by The Association of Former Students for both current and former students. He reported total Association revenue for all funds was \$15.8M with total expenses of \$12M. For 2022, The Association's management team presented a balanced preliminary operating budget to the Board of \$17,806,391, with total operating mission support of over \$11M. The Association's management team will present a finalized 2022 operating budget at the first quarter meeting in February 2022.

### **Fundraising Report**

Jenkins stated The Association's 2021 Annual Fund goal is to raise \$10.725M from 60,000 donors. As of October 31, 2021, \$6.7M from nearly 45,000 donors had been raised. He reported twenty-eight new endowments had been established year-to-date for a total of 1,128 endowments. In regards to Aggie Ring Scholarships, there are 187 total endowments with twenty new scholarships as of October 31, 2021. Jenkins reported on The Association's primary capital priority, Aggie Park, with over \$23M in commitments, and he welcomed all individuals interested in financially supporting Aggie Park to contact Nic Taunton '07, Vice President, and Travis White '12, Director of Development. Details on the Aggie Park project are available online at [AggiePark.tamu.edu](http://AggiePark.tamu.edu). Jenkins encouraged the Leadership Council to participate in Pass It Back Day, The Association's 24-hour day of giving, which was scheduled for November 9, 2021. He concluded the Fundraising Report by thanking the Leadership Council for their support and then introduced Kobi Ajayi '20, who shared how Century Club donations made a difference for her in a time of need.

### **Aggie Park**

Robert White '81, Chair of the Aggie Park Task Committee, reported on the progress of the Aggie Park project and provided brief updates on the lake excavation, site grading and installation of the storm water management system. He reported Lake | Flato should complete construction drawings for the Grand Hall building in November, and the Distinguished Alumni Tribute will commence construction in early 2022.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Porter S. Garner III '79 then welcomed Gretchen VanValkenburg '86, Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Executive Director for the Auburn Alumni Association. VanValkenburg expressed her gratitude to Garner and his team for the warm welcome and for his counsel as a fellow SEC alumni organization leader. She commended the Leadership Council and thanked all former students for their support of The Association's mission and support of higher education.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Beaird thanked the outgoing 2020 Board members, Ray Hannigan '61 and Immediate Past Chair Cathy Mann '92, for their dedicated service to The Association of Former Students and the worldwide Aggie Network. Beaird and Garner then presented Mann with a chair from the Pitzer Board Room in appreciation of her service as The Association's 2020 Chair of the Board, as well as eight years of exemplary volunteer service to The Association of Former Students. Garner thanked the Leadership Council for their service to The Association and to Texas A&M University. He went on to thank Beaird specifically for his inspiring leadership in 2021, and presented him with a special proclamation recognizing his dedicated service as The Association of Former Students' 2021 Chair of the Board.

## **CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Beaird expressed his sincere appreciation for the opportunity to serve The Association of Former Students as the 2021 Chair of the Board. He thanked the Leadership Council, fellow members of the Board and The Association's staff for their tremendous support. Beaird welcomed Dara Hegar '95 as the 2022 Chair of the Board and commended her service thus far to the Aggie Network.

Beaird reminded the Leadership Council to make plans to attend the Spring Leadership Council Meeting, which is scheduled for February 25-26, 2022. He also noted that the Sul Ross Group Reunion is scheduled for March 2-4, 2022. Beaird encouraged the Leadership Council to participate in Pass It Back Day which was scheduled for November 9, 2021.

To close the meeting, Beaird asked all former Yell Leaders to lead in the singing of *Spirit of Aggieland*.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pat C. Beaird '83  
Chair of the Board

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Porter S. Garner III '79  
President and CEO