



FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

November 11, 2023

The Association of Former Students' Chair of the Board, Robert E. "Bob" Jordan '85, called the Fall Leadership Council Meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. in the Zachry Family Rooms of the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. He welcomed over 250 members of The Association's governing body who were attending this meeting in person and another 50 on Zoom, and thanked them for their dedication and service to The Association of Former Students. Jordan recognized Ryan Price '91, President of the Italy A&M Club and Chong Hsu '90, President of the Taiwan A&M Club, who were attending virtually. He extended a welcome to the County Line A&M Club, represented by Club President Masen Smith '18, and the Aspen A&M Club, who was represented virtually by Club President Stephanie Erwin '95. Jordan recognized the two newest Constituent Networks: the First Generation Former Student Network, represented by Julieta Munoz '22, and the Industrial Distribution Aggies, joined virtually by Kellie Binkley '05. Jordan noted that the two new chartered Constituent Networks bring the total to 14. He congratulated the 2023 12 Under 12 Young Alumni Spotlight Award recipients who were honored at the Leadership Council reception the evening before. Jordan welcomed the following individuals to the meeting: Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System John Sharp '72; Interim President of Texas A&M University General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III; President and CEO of the 12th Man Foundation Travis Dabney '96 along with their Chair of the Board Kevin McDonald '89; Texas A&M University Director of Athletics Ross Bjork; and Wayne Roberts '85, lead donor for Aggie Park. Jordan reported on the October 6 Distinguished Alumni Gala honoring Hector Gutierrez '69, Hank Paup '70, Mike Havel '76, T. Michael O'Connor '77, Bill Toler '76, Bert Pfaff, Jr., Class of 1925, Jimmy Tittle '49, Joe Straus '50, Jeff Potter '78, Michael Plank '83, Anthony Wood '87, and Kathryn Greenwade '88. Jordan expressed his respect and appreciation for those who have served our great nation and thanked members of the Leadership Council who are serving, or who have served, in any of the U.S. armed forces. He closed his opening remarks by inviting Seth Wallick '24, Corps of Cadets Chaplain, to provide the invocation. Jordan recognized James R. McIlroy '45 for his service in the U.S. Army during World War II before Nathan Birge '26, McIlroy's grandson, led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 25, 2023. Carried.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY REPORT

Jordan welcomed Texas A&M's Interim President General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III and thanked him for making time to visit with the Midland A&M Club on a recent trip to Midland, TX. Welsh reported on recent events that have taken place on the Texas A&M campus, some of which received media attention. He discussed various initiatives and studies taking place within the university and announced that fall enrollment at Texas A&M University is 77,500. Welsh commented on new initiatives to engage faculty and staff and educate them on Texas A&M's traditions. He also discussed the reorganization taking place in the President's Office. Welsh answered the Leadership Council's various questions.

12TH MAN FOUNDATION REPORT

Jordan thanked 12th Man Foundation Chair of the Board Kevin McDonald '89 and President and CEO Travis Dabney '96 for joining the meeting. Dabney underscored the strong relationship between the 12th Man Foundation and The Association of Former Students and highlighted the 12th Man's unique dual role of fundraising and managing ticketing for Texas A&M Athletics. He announced the sell-out of the 2023 football season tickets, while also noting the availability of alternative ticketing options like the Gig 'em Pass and Flex Pass. Dabney proudly reported on the record-breaking sale of 4,622 tickets for Texas A&M Basketball. He acknowledged the philanthropic contributions of Ann and Dave Dunlap '83 recipients of the E. King Gill Award, and Wayne Roberts '85 for his generous donation towards the renovation of the Bright-Slocum Center for Texas A&M Football and enhancement of the basketball facilities, now named Gary Blair Court. Dabney concluded by expressing gratitude to The Association for their support of Texas A&M and the 12th Man Foundation.

ATHLETICS REPORT

Ross Bjork, Director of Athletics at Texas A&M University, extended his gratitude to The Association of Former Students and the Aggie Network for their steadfast support of the university's athletic programs. He emphasized that the Athletics Department's mission focuses on fostering leadership and academic success, aiming to prepare students not only for athletic excellence but also to become world-changing leaders. Bjork reaffirmed the department's commitment to making decisions aligned with the best interests of the A&M System, while upholding strong leadership, culture, and vision. He highlighted upcoming enhancements and expansions planned for the athletic complex in the coming year.

A&M SYSTEM REPORT

Jordan welcomed Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System John Sharp '72 to the meeting. Sharp reported on retention and graduation rates at Texas A&M and provided a brief update on initiatives and events taking place in the College of Engineering, School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, School of Law, School of Medicine, and Texas A&M University Galveston. Sharp reported the Texas A&M Forest Service has responded to more than 5,500 wildfires that have burned 191,000 across the state of Texas since the first of the year. He added that the Board of Regents voted yesterday to begin construction on the \$370M State Emergency Operations Center and agency headquarters for the Texas Department of Emergency Management just east of Austin's Bergstrom International Airport.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Volunteer Spotlight

Jordan introduced Monica Menzel '93, President of the Texas A&M Hispanic Network, and thanked her for her admirable leadership with the Constituent Network. Menzel outlined the Network's mission, focusing on advocating for the recruitment and retention of Hispanic students at Texas A&M University. She emphasized the goal of aligning student enrollment with the demographics of Texas, through efforts in fundraising, scholarships, programming, recruitment, and mentoring. Menzel highlighted the vital role of former students in fulfilling this mission and pointed out how Texas A&M significantly alters the life paths of individuals and their families. She drew attention to the alignment of Texas A&M's core values with those of traditional Hispanic families but noted challenges such as financial constraints, home life pressures, and perceptions of higher education being unattainable, which often deter Hispanic families

from considering A&M. Menzel reported that while one in four students at A&M are Hispanic, this figure is underrepresented compared to the 50% graduation rate of Hispanic students in Texas high schools. She stressed the importance of encouraging Hispanic students to pursue higher education.

Nominating Committee

Dara Hegar '95, Immediate Past Chair and Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported on the meeting of The Association of Former Students' Nominating Committee held in College Station on August 24, 2023. The Committee met to nominate candidates for various positions, including the Association's 2024 Board of Directors, the 2024 Chair Elect, Student Loan Fund Trustee, and Area and National Representatives. Hegar thanked the members of the Nominating Committee: Past Chair David Heath '76, Class Agent Laura Maskel '06, Capital City A&M Club Logan Harrell '14, Area 2 Representative Susan Stewart '82, Chair of the Board Bob Jordan '85, Chair Elect Bobby Jenkins '81, and President and CEO Porter Garner '79 who served as a non-voting member. Hegar introduced the slate of 2024 board members: Chair of the Board Bobby Jenkins '81, Chair Elect Jeff Steen '80, Immediate Past Chair Bob Jordan '85, Brad Bynum '92, Bruce Chinn '79, John Dickerson '87, Cecilia González '81, Laurie Hill Gutierrez '88, Mark Herod '78, Johnita Jones '83, Shara McClure '90, Aaron Pool '87, Ken Robinson '93, and Robert White '81. She then presented the new Board members: Jeff Miller '88, Mandy Scott '87, and Tony Weber '84.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS PRESENTED. Carried.

Hegar also reported that George Nelson '64 was nominated for election as The Association of Former Students' 2024 Student Loan Fund Trustee.

MOTION: TO APPROVE GEORGE NELSON '64 AS THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS' 2024 STUDENT LOAN FUND TRUSTEE. Carried.

Hegar stated the nominees for the 2024 Area and National Representatives will be presented for election by the general membership via a ballot distributed electronically, as well as in *Texas Aggie* magazine.

Finance Committee

Jeff Steen '80, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the Finance Committee Report. Steen reported that in 2023, The Association will provide more than \$9.1M in mission services and support to Texas A&M and the Aggie Network across all funds (both restricted and unrestricted), almost \$2.4M in cash for scholarships and academic programs, and \$6.7M through programs administered by The Association of Former Students for both current and former students. Steen noted that as of November 30, 2023, total assets were \$222M with net assets of \$209.6M. The Association had generated \$20.5M in total revenues with total expenses of \$14.4M.

Steen reported that the day before, The Association's management team presented a balanced preliminary operating budget to the Board of \$20,393,699, with total operating mission support of over \$12.9M. The Association's management team will present a final budget to be approved at the Board's first quarter meeting on March 1, 2024.

Fundraising Committee

Shara McClure '90, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, stated as of November 3, 2023, The Association of Former Students had raised \$6,884,610 in the Annual Fund from 47,066 donors, which was \$388,390 and 271 donors behind the YTD goals. McClure encouraged the Leadership Council to participate in Pass It Back Day, which has a goal of 2,800 donors on November 14, 2023. Regarding major gifts, there are 1,209 total Endowed Century Club (ECC) endowments with 26 new ECCs in 2023. Additionally, there are 259 Aggie Ring Scholarship endowments with 28 new endowments established YTD.

Aggie Park

Garner introduced Wayne Roberts '85, the lead donor for Aggie Park, highlighting how his generosity led to the creation of what has become the premier green space on the Texas A&M campus. Roberts expressed his deep gratitude towards the countless individuals involved in making Aggie Park a reality. He acknowledged the ongoing efforts of those who maintain the park and emphasized its significance as a lasting benefit for future generations of Aggies and visitors to the campus. He encouraged everyone to explore Aggie Park and appreciate the various elements that collectively narrate the story of the Aggie Network. Concluding his remarks, Roberts urged the Leadership Council to embrace gratitude and channel it into giving back to the University.

Communications Task Committee

Shara McClure '90, Chair of the Communications Task Committee, reported the committee was asked to create recommendations to The Association's Board of Directors on policies regarding when, if ever is it appropriate for The Association, an Association employee, or representative, or an Association affiliate to take a public position or make a public statement on topics of debate or events in the news and, if and when it is appropriate, then who may speak or delegate the authority to speak on behalf of The Association. After final recommendations were submitted to The Association's legal counsel for review, they were then submitted to the full Board for consideration and all the committee's recommendations were accepted and approved unanimously by the Board, with the incorporation of the revisions suggested by counsel. McClure made note that The Association's leadership team will now begin working on an implementation plan to educate all stakeholders about the new policy, which will be presented at the Spring Leadership Council meeting in March.

Distinguished Alumnus Award Task Committee

Johnita Jones '83, Chair of the Distinguished Alumnus Award Task Committee, provided an update on the work being done by the Distinguished Alumnus Award Task Committee. She provided an overview of the changes that will be proposed to the Board at its first quarter meeting in 2024 with more details to be shared at the Spring Leadership Council meeting on March 2. She noted the next step is to review the proposed changes with Welsh, given the Distinguished Alumnus Award is jointly awarded by The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jordan stated that he would be appointing a task committee charged with advising The Association's Board on a clear and comprehensive volunteer code of conduct, outlining behaviors, ethical standards and guidelines for all volunteers. He stated that the task committee would also advise on the implementation of confidential reporting mechanisms, reporting violations, as well as procedures for ensuring fairness, partiality and due process in upholding those standards.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Jordan recognized and thanked outgoing Board members Beaver Aplin '80, John Zachry '84, and Dara Hegar '95. Jordan and Garner presented Hegar with a chair from the Pitzer Board Room as a gift for her service as Chair of the Board in 2022. Hegar expressed her sincere appreciation to the Board, Leadership Council and staff, and her family who supported her tenure on The Association's Board. She left the Leadership Council with a challenge: "Never peak; keep being there for the Aggies and future classes because they depend on us." Garner thanked Hegar for her exemplary service and went on to thank Jordan for his inspiring leadership. He presented Jordan with a proclamation acknowledging his dedicated service as The Association of Former Students' 2023 Chair of the Board.

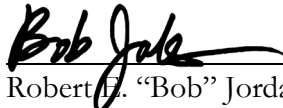
CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Jordan thanked the Leadership Council for what they do to serve The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the staff who serve the worldwide Aggie Network every day. He thanked his family for serving alongside him on the board. To close the meeting, Jordan invited all former yell leaders to lead in the singing of the *Spirit of Aggieland*. He noted that the Spring Leadership Council meeting will be held March 1-2, 2024.

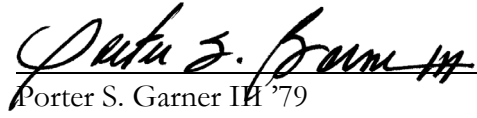
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. "Bob" Jordan '85
Chair of the Board



Porter S. Garner III '79
President and CEO