



FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
November 15, 2025

Following the *'Fueling the Aggie Spirit'* video, The Association of Former Students' Chair of the Board, Lias J. "Jeff" Steen '80, called the Fall Leadership Council Meeting to order at 8:03 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 or on Zoom and thanked them for their dedication and service to The Association. Corps Chaplain Logan Stringer '26 provided the invocation. 1879 Society President Josie Adams '26 led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 22, 2025. Carried. (Members of the Leadership Council approved the minutes via prior online voting.)

THE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Steen presented The Association Report and welcomed the presidents of the Greater Northwest Atlanta Georgia A&M Club, Jewish Aggie Constituent Network and Med Ags Constituent Network, all of whom recently received charters and were attending their first Leadership Council meeting. Steen reported on the recent Distinguished Alumni Gala, during which 12 former students were recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a former student of Texas A&M University. He noted that six of the 2025 Distinguished Alumni honorees have served or are currently serving on The Association's Board or Leadership Council, including Past Chair and current Class Agent Bill Youngkin '69, Representative at Large Col. John Ball '78 and former board members Beaver Aplin '80, Cydney Donnell '81, Linda LaMantia '82 and John Zachry '84. He also recognized the remaining honorees: Mike Walker '66 (posthumous), Leroy "Shafe" Shafer '67, Scott Taylor '69, Steve Vincent '73, Jim Wilson '81 and Gary Kubiak '83. Steen noted that only 354 of Texas A&M's more than 600,000 former students have been named a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M University.

Former Student Engagement Survey

Steen emphasized the priority The Association places on meaningful engagement with both current and former students, noting that this work remains central to its mission and long-term impact. He stated that sustained, high-quality engagement strengthens relationships across the Aggie Network and reinforces The Association's role in supporting its constituents. Steen added that this focus continues to guide program development and resource allocation across the organization and commended Senior Vice President Cecilee Herd '95 for her leadership in this effort. He also thanked Director of Former Student Programs Megan Hamlin '09 for her exemplary work with the recent Former Student Engagement Survey. He invited Hamlin to the stage to provide a brief overview of the survey results.

Hamlin reported that 5,858 former students responded to the full-file survey, with representation from a wide range of Class years from the late 1940s through recent graduates. She summarized demographic insights, focus group feedback and communication preferences, emphasizing that email remains the most

preferred communication method across all age groups, with younger alumni showing stronger use of social media and text messaging. Key themes and suggestions from respondents will be used to help shape future engagement strategies. Hamlin also reported on reunion-related findings, noting that participation in both long-standing Class Reunions and Young Alumni Weekend remains comparatively low relative to class size. Respondents expressed mixed likelihood of attending a Class Reunion and cited timing, limited connection to Class year and overall cost as primary barriers. Among those unlikely to attend, many indicated greater interest in alternative formats such as college or department-based gatherings, organization-related events or multi- Class -year Reunions, and a significant portion expressed limited interest in traveling to Bryan–College Station for a Reunion. Hamlin stated that the findings will be presented in greater detail at the Spring Leadership Council workshops, where volunteer leaders will be engaged as active partners in shaping future engagement solutions.

Nominating Committee

Bobby Jenkins '81, 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 7, 2025. The Committee met to nominate candidates for various positions, including the Association's 2026 Board of Directors, the 2026 Chair Elect, Student Loan Fund Trustee and Area and National Representatives.

Jenkins thanked the members of the Nominating Committee: Past Chair Mark Fischer '72, Class Agent Ande Burks '13, Northeast Tarrant County A&M Club President Bev Reynal '93, Area 15 Representative Curtis Donaldson '81, Chair of the Board Jeff Steen '80, Chair Elect Shara McClure '90 and President and CEO Porter Garner '79 who served as a non-voting member. Jenkins introduced the slate of 2026 Board members: Chair of the Board Shara McClure '90, Chair Elect John Dickerson '87, Immediate Past Chair Jeff Steen '80, Bruce Chinn '79, Cecilia González '81, Jeff Miller '88, Aaron Pool '87, Marcos Rosales '05, Mandy Scott '87, Lee Tillman '84, Tony Weber '84, Robert White '81 and Brad Worsham '88. He then presented the new Board members: Doug Rosencrans '96, Tim Timmerman '83 and Jennifer Woodard '91. In accordance with The Association's Bylaws, President and CEO Porter Garner '79 serves as a non-voting member of the Board.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS PRESENTED. Carried. (Members of the Leadership Council approved the 2026 Board of Directors via prior online voting.)

Jenkins also reported that Tony Weber '84 was nominated for election as The Association of Former Students' 2026 Student Loan Fund Trustee.

MOTION: TO APPROVE TONY WEBER '84 AS THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS' 2026 STUDENT LOAN FUND TRUSTEE. Carried. (Members of the Leadership Council approved the 2026 Student Loan Fund Trustee via prior online voting.)

Jenkins stated the nominees for the 2026 Area and National Representatives will be presented for election by the general membership via a ballot distributed electronically, as well as in the *Texas Aggie* magazine.

Finance Committee

Tony Weber '84, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented an overview of The Association's financial position and 2025 total operating results as of Sept. 30, 2025. He first reported that the 2025 budget included approximately \$14.9 million in total mission services and support to Texas A&M and the Aggie Network across all funds, both restricted and unrestricted, with approximately \$6 million in cash for

scholarships and academic programs. An additional \$8.9 million is expected to be spent on programs administered by The Association for both current and former students. (e.g., Aggie Ring program, Campus Engagement, Traveling Aggies, Tailgates and Reunions, the *Texas Aggie* and other publications and the Distinguished Alumni Gala). Weber noted that The Association also provides short-term, unrestricted student loans administered through the Student Financial Aid Office.

Total assets as of Sept. 30, 2025, were approximately \$257 million, with approximately \$157 million invested in long-term investments primarily managed by the Texas A&M Foundation. The remaining assets consist of building and equipment, receivables and prepaid expenses and cash and short-term investments. Weber highlighted that net assets have grown steadily over the past decade, increasing by more than \$140 million since 2015, driven largely by strong long-term investment performance that has exceeded policy benchmarks across multiple time horizons.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2025, he reported that total Association revenues were \$18.9 million and then reviewed key revenue sources, including contributions, program revenues and investment income. For the same time period, total Association expenses were \$15.5, with 63 percent directly attributed to Student, University, and Former Student support (Mission Support), and 19% for both fundraising and general/administrative, respectively.

Weber then presented Operating Fund results through September 30, 2025, including revenues of \$12.2 million (below projections by \$600k) and total expenses of 12.7 million (below projected spending by 476k). He noted that revenues are below projections due to lower Annual Fund giving in the first nine months, though fourth-quarter performance is tracking ahead of projections and that expenses have been managed through reductions and deferrals. As a result, The Association is slightly behind its net surplus target year-to-date and is expected to conclude 2025 with a slight but manageable deficit.

Fundraising Committee

Aaron Pool '87, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, reported on fundraising progress and priorities. He noted that the 2025 Annual Fund goal is \$11.5 million and that, through Oct. 31, approximately \$6.5 million had been raised from nearly 38,000 donors, leaving the Annual Fund behind year-to-date goals. He emphasized that approximately 30 percent of Annual Fund revenue is typically received in the final two months of the year and encouraged continued volunteer support to help close the gap. Pool highlighted the success of the 10th annual Pass It Back Day, which generated more than \$539,000 from over 2,200 donors.

Pool reported that the Endowed Century Club remains The Association's top major gift priority, with anticipated 2025 earnings of more than \$1.6 million supporting the Annual Fund. As of Nov. 11, 2025, 51 new funds had been established YTD, bringing the total to 1,330 endowments with a trust fund balance exceeding \$51 million. He also reported continued growth of the Endowed Aggie Ring Scholarship program, with 13 new endowments added in 2025, bringing the total to 330 and a trust fund balance exceeding \$12 million. Pool concluded with an update on fundraising efforts for the planned student-centric building in Aggie Park and noted that philanthropic support and naming opportunities remain available.

Building Enhancement Task Committee

Robert White '81, Chair of the Building Enhancement Task Committee, provided an update on the planned student-centric building in Aggie Park. He reported that the building will serve as a shared student space in partnership with Texas A&M's Division of Student Affairs and will house the Aggie Ring Office and the Engagement Division of The Association of Former Students. White noted that

construction documents are nearing completion and are expected to reach 100 percent by Dec. 19, 2025, and that fundraising efforts will continue with the goal of breaking ground in late 2026.

White reviewed the overall building scope, which totals approximately 69,847 square feet across two levels, including Association spaces, student commons, terraces and covered porches. He shared that, upon completion, all students will order and receive their Aggie Rings in this facility, which will also feature a café and coffee shop, dedicated student gathering and study spaces and direct connectivity to Aggie Park. White emphasized that the building is expected to become a highly utilized campus destination and a significant addition to Aggie Park.

12TH MAN FOUNDATION REPORT

Steen thanked 12th Man Foundation President and CEO Travis Dabney '96 for joining the meeting and commented on the great relationship between The Association and 12th Man Foundation. Dabney underscored the strong relationship. He reported on the organization's fundraising efforts, strong ticket sales and membership growth and shared key updates on facility projects while recognizing donors for their contributions to athletic programs. Dabney concluded by expressing gratitude to The Association for their support of Texas A&M and the 12th Man Foundation.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Steen recognized and thanked outgoing Board members Johnita Jones '83, Ken Robinson '93 and Immediate Past Chair Bobby Jenkins '81. Steen and Garner presented Jenkins with a chair from the Pitzer Board Room as a gift for his service as Chair of the Board in 2024. Jenkins expressed his sincere appreciation to the Board, Leadership Council and staff and his family who supported his tenure on The Association's Board. Garner thanked Jenkins for his exemplary service and went on to thank Steen for his inspiring leadership. He presented Steen with a proclamation acknowledging his dedicated service as The Association of Former Students' 2025 Chair of the Board.

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Steen 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. To close the meeting, Steen invited all former yell leaders to lead in the singing of the *Spirit of Aggieland*.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lias J. "Jeff" Steen '80
Chair of the Board



Porter S. Garner III '79
President and CEO