

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Sixty-Five



February 10, 2023

The opinions expressed in this bulletin are those of the Board of Directors of the Sul Ross Group and do not represent the opinions of The Association of Former Students, its officers, or its Leadership.

HOW 'DIVERSITY' POLICING FAILS SCIENCE



Figure 1 - The Entrance to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

As reported by John D. Sailer in a February 6, 2023, article in the Wall Street Journal, a Texas Tech University faculty search committee used diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) criteria to evaluate and flag candidates who did not adhere or acknowledge its own notions and views on the importance of such criteria.

An open records search by the National Association of Scholars (NAS) found that a committee in the department of biology flagged a candidate for not knowing the difference between “equality” and “equity”. According to

the report “another was flagged for repeated use of the pronoun ‘he’ when referring to professors.” The report continued, “One Texas Tech search committee penalized a candidate for espousing race-neutrality in teaching. The candidate “mentioned that DEI is not an issue because he respects his students and treats them equally,” the evaluation notes. “This indicates a lack of understanding of equity and inclusion issues.”

Another example cited in the report said, “Another search committee flagged a candidate for failing to properly understand “the difference between equity and equality, even on re-direct,” noting that this suggests a “rather superficial understanding of DEI more generally.” This distinction arises frequently in DEI training, always as a markedly ideological talking point. According to the schema, equality means equal opportunity, but, to use the words of Vice President Kamala Harris, “Equitable treatment means we all end up in the same place.” Somehow, that fails to explain how that distinction reflects poorly on a biologist.

Diversity as defined by the DEI proponents is heavily weighted toward fealty to their viewpoints and serves as a political “litmus test” which is often a requirement for being hired. It is aimed at affirmative action and racial preferences (quotas) which are the opposite of the American value of a meritocracy.

Mr. Sailer is a fellow at the National Association of Scholars.

To read more, click on the link below”

[How ‘Diversity’ Policing Fails Science - WSJ](#)

WIDE RECEIVER AINIAS SMITH ANNOUNCES HIS RETURN TO TEXAS A&M FOR 2023



Figure 2 - Running Back/Wide Receiver Ainias Smith.

As reported on the TexAgs.com website on February 2, 2023, wide receiver Ainias Smith, also known as “Subzero” announced he is returning to Aggieland for the 2023 football season. This will be his Super Senior season which is allowed due to the Covid season. Smith also lost last season due to injury.

One of Texas A&M’s most electrifying players, Smith has been called by Coach Jimbo Fisher “the purest football player I

have ever coached. He will play any position you ask because he just loves to play football.”

According to the TexAgs.com piece, “The versatile Smith, who has also played running back and returned punts at A&M, has hauled in 127 receptions for 1,162 yards and 17 touchdowns in his career. He currently ranks 10th on A&M’s all-time list for receptions, 11th for receiving yardage and is tied for seventh with Mike Evans for receiving touchdowns. Smith has also rushed 67 times for 384 yards and four touchdowns in addition to returning 62 punts for 221 yards, including a touchdown return vs. South Carolina in 2021.”

He was originally recruited as a three-star player from Fort Bend Dulles High School, and he made an immediate impact catching 16 passes for 190 yards as a true freshman. He not only is one of the Aggies’ most popular players, but he is also a team leader who will be a great fit in Coach Bobby Petrino’s new offense.

To read more, click the link below:

[Wide receiver Ainias Smith announces his return to Texas A&M for 2023 | TexAgs](#)

WHO WAS DR. MARK FRANCIS?

Dr. Francis became a world-renowned veterinarian and professor at Texas A&M from 1888 until 1936. After graduating from Ohio State University, he accepted an invitation

to set up the Department of Veterinary Science with a budget of \$2,500. He immediately was assigned to the Agricultural Experiment Station to head the critical search for a cure to Texas tick fever that was devastating the multi-million Texas cattle industry. After extensive research it was determined that a two step program of vaccine to inoculate cattle Francis developed as well as a protocol to “dip” cattle to beat back the spread of the ticks solved the problem. He crisscrossed the state meeting with ranchers, county agents, and buyers. He often traveled day and night and thus he carried a candle in his pocket – always prepared if he found himself in the middle of the night in a dark pasture treating cattle. He and wife Anna lived in a small cottage on Lamar Street, where the Memorial Student Center sits today. According to the Handbook of Texas, Dr. Mark Francis is known as the “Father of the Texas Cattle Industry”.



Figure 3 – Dr. Mark Francis, DVM.

In 1903, he was a founding member and first president of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA). This was followed by a Texas legislative appropriation of \$100,000 to build the first full service, teaching, and research vet facility and hospital west of the Mississippi River. A second area for which he was famed was his extensive collection of extinct prehistoric mammoth and mastodon bones and fossils found along the Brazos and Navasota Rivers that dated back some 10 thousand years. The hobby turned into international acclaim.

The find and recovery of a “three-toed” miniature ancient horse was officially named for him by the Smithsonian Institute – *Equus Francisci*. With the bones he accumulated, Francis opened the first museum at Texas A&M and expanded the collection to include geological samples, botany exhibits, and the most famous artifact of all – the display of a 3,000 year old Egyptian mummy he obtained from a defunct museum collection known to cadets and visitors as “the oldest man on campus” – a fish campusology question by the name of: ANH-HR-H3CPJ.

GOV. GREG ABBOTT TELLS STATE AGENCIES AND COLLEGES TO STOP CONSIDERING DIVERSITY IN HIRING



Figure 4 - Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

As reported in a piece written by Kate McGee in the Texas Tribune, February 7, 2023, Governor Greg Abbott officially warned state agencies and public university leaders that the use of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives (DEI) in hiring is illegal.

The piece stated that a memo written by Gardner Pate, Gov. Abbott’s chief of staff, told agency and university leaders

SOME CONTEXT LEADING UP TO AND ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION'S "COMMUNICATIONS TASK COMMITTEE"

In April of 2022, The Association of Former Students (AFS) leadership informed the Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoDs) that "opinions" of any kind, from any source, would no longer be permitted in SRG Bulletins, and that AFS would have to approve all content. The new guidance letter's rationale was to avoid damage to "affinity for former students to give to the AFS."

After considerable discussions both ways, the SRG BoDs apprised AFS that we would continue, in our "stately, factual and polite" striven manner, producing the SRG Bulletins to keep our constituent membership informed in accordance with our constitution. Thus, as most of you well know, we switched back to Bulletin distribution to members, (from "ListServe," a TAMU system used by AFS) to again asking the SRG class agents to forward them to their respective classes via their respective send-out email lists. The AFS was notified of our intentions in this regard, and that we intended to proceed.

In review: when "wokeness awakened" at TAMU in June 2020, we inquired to the AFS leadership about who, then, was going to speak out for Aggie former students since the "narrative" was totally dominated by faculty, students, staff, external participants, a biased press, and soon afterwards, the biased, agenda driven Commission of DEI report. The answer was "not us," and the reason was that the AFS is a large organization, and opinions would prompt various AFS factions to be upset and result in "Aggies at odds with other Aggies."

Due to the vast majority of our SRG membership being unified on issues including the LS Ross statue, systemic racism and racial preferences, the Bulletins were initiated with full SRG transparency with AFS. Our primary motive, and in consonance with our SRG constitution, was to keep our membership informed. It was also to preserve and perpetuate what made Texas A&M transcendent and distinctive, based on our culture of selfless service and answering calls to duty. After a few months, we were invited by AFS to convert to the AFS's segment of ListServe as a means of distribution to our membership recipients. This was accomplished with transparency with the AFS's leadership.

Recently, we learned that AFS will soon convene a "Communications Task Committee" to address these issues. The Task Committee's "Charge" is as follows:

"This Task committee, which is temporary in nature, shall be composed of members of The Association Board and other representatives as so designated and shall report to The Association Board. The primary purpose and "charge" of this Task committee shall be to:"

- * "Identify who may speak or delegate the authority to speak on behalf of The Association of Former Students.*

- * Clarify whether any other Association staff, volunteers, programs or chartered affiliates may claim to speak on behalf of The Association of Former Students or the Aggie Network.*

- * Consider and clarify how and when (if ever) is it appropriate for The Association or*

an Association representative, program, or affiliate to take a public position on a topic of debate at Texas A&M.

** Consider and clarify how and when (if ever) is it appropriate for The Association or an Association representative, program, or affiliate to take a public position on a topic that is in the news but has no direct connection to Texas A&M or The Association.*

** Consider and advise on how Association staff and volunteers can exercise their First Amendment right to participate in public dialogue and debate within the guidelines identified above.*

** Consider and advise on the types of content that are, or are not, appropriate for inclusion in broadly targeted communications from The Association.*

** Consider and advise on the types of content that are, or are not, appropriate for inclusion in more narrowly targeted communications from The Association, its programs and its chartered affiliates (such as Classes, Clubs, Constituent Networks, and the Sul Ross Group)."*

As one can discern, this also prompts questions about rights of expression, fairness, consistency in governance amongst various constituent groups and entities of the AFS, pertinence of mission authorities, reporting and equitable distributions of donated funds, and authorized and proper use of the TAMU "ListServe" system. From our perspective, and given the context history shared above, we are looking forward to learning about the outcome of the Committee's work, recommendations, and importantly, how and what is implemented with specific rationale. The outcomes could impact all communications to and from the AFS and affect the entire Aggie Family. Amongst the issues potentially impacted could be legality, equal opportunity, equal access, AFS governing documents, communication restrictions, 501c3 rules/directives, and limitations on communication opportunities. Decisions of the Board of Directors and/or the Leadership Council could perhaps be voted on at the 25 February Leadership Council meeting. We hope that all volunteer leaders, voters of all AFS related organizations and members of the Aggie Family will be paying close attention to this matter.

As we have emphasized regularly for almost three years now, we intend to stay the course of keeping our membership informed because they are a vital cohort when it comes to "a say" in the perpetuation of the values, culture and traditions of our beloved institution. More to come!

t.u. AND SOONERS PAY \$100 MILLION TO FOLLOW AGGIES TO SEC IN 2024.

As reported by KBTX in Austin in a piece written by Danny V. Brufett on February 9, 2023, SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey announced that t.u. and Oklahoma will follow Texas A&M University to the SEC effective July, 2024.

The Sooners and t.u. paid \$100 million to get the Big XII to modify their contracts to allow them to leave before 2025. The SEC will expand to 16 teams and it is speculated that each team will have three permanent rivals and each team will play the other six teams annually on an alternating or rotating basis, so that every team plays every other SEC team every two years. It is further speculated that the Aggies' three permanent



Figure 6 - SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey.

rivals will be t.u., LSU, and Mississippi State. While still in the Big XII, t.u. has not won a conference championship in thirteen years raising questions about how they will fare in the SEC.

It is further speculated that the Longhorn Network will be discontinued since the SEC Network is the primary contracting entity for the conference. Texas A&M Athletic Director Ross Bjork has stated that the first game between t.u. and the Aggies will be played at Kyle Field.

t.u. is continuing its history of following Texas A&M since 1876.

To read more, click on the link below:

[Oklahoma & Texas to begin competing in SEC in 2024 \(kbt.com\)](http://kbt.com)

WHO, WHY, AND HOW TO RECEIVE THE SRG BULLETINS?

It was previously The Association of Former Students' policy that anyone could "opt in" (register and grant permission) to receive the 56 SRG produced Bulletins which began in 2020. In mid-April 2022, the policy guidance was changed so that only SRG members can now receive them. The "opt in" system was rescinded by The Association so that now, non-SRG persons no longer can be recipients. That rescission and change in policy also included three conditions: (1) that SRG can no longer express opinions or include "opinion-based" material in the bulletins, (2) that the SRG can only issue one bulletin each month, and (3) that our "bulletins" be simply typical SRG newsletters. Accordingly, in order to maintain our independence of thought and communication with our membership, the SRG board has decided to abandon the email service of The Association, known as "ListServe", and to communicate with you directly through bulletins sent by email to the Class Agents. The Board intends to maintain our policy of complete transparency and that is the reason we have inserted the disclaimer on the front page of this bulletin. To communicate with the SRG address your emails to SRGPresident@gmail.com

The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are responsible for producing the SRG Bulletins. We do so in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's purposes, which is to ensure our represented SRG Membership is kept informed in a timely manner.

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER
SUL ROSS GROUP REUNION
March 7-9, 2023.**

A block of rooms is available on a first-come, first-served basis, for the 2023 Sul Ross Group Reunion. Make your reservations by calling the College Station Hilton directly before Feb. 13, at 979-693-7500, or by booking online. Be sure to reference the group code **ROSS23** to receive the rate of \$129 per night, plus tax.

For more information, go to the Sul Ross Group web page link below:

<https://www.aggienetwork.com/events/2023/sulross.aspx>

IF YOU WISH COMMENT TO THOSE WHO DECIDE:

Chancellor Sharp: chancellor@AFSmus.edu

The Board of Regents: vickie@AFSmus.edu or jbell@AFSmus.edu

President Banks: president@AFSmu.edu

COO Hartman: gharman@AFSmu.edu

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