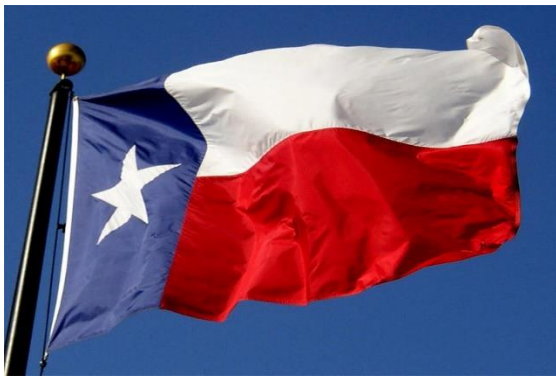


Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Ninety-Five (95)



March 1, 2025

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 leadership. The SRG is a nonpartisan organization. Our intention is in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's purposes, to keep the Sul Ross Group membership informed on pertinent topics and occurrences at TAMU in a timely manner and enlist their support when required.



Texas Independence Day – March 2, 1836

God and Texas



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

From the Office of the President – Texas A&M University

PRESIDENT'S BRIEF - February 24, 2025

It feels like we hit the ground running in the new year and haven't stopped to catch our breath. I suspect you feel the same way. Earlier this month, Betty and I had the privilege of attending Aggieland Saturday, where we welcomed prospective students and their families to Aggieland. Event organizers tell me we had more than 17,000 folks in attendance — including around 8,100 prospective students — for this year's campuswide open house. This is a massive undertaking, literally a year in the making, and I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the Office of Admissions, Appelt Aggieland

Visitor Center, Howdy Crew and all of you who came together to contribute your time and talent to welcome future members of the Aggie Family to Texas A&M University with a friendly smile and “Howdy!”

As an Aggie parent myself, Aggieland Saturday is a great opportunity for Betty and me to meet and engage with future Aggie parents. We’ve been in their shoes — four times! I love getting to tell them why Texas A&M is so special to my family and the impact this place has had on my own kids. I wholeheartedly believe Texas A&M and its faculty, staff and students made my kids better spouses, better parents, better citizens ... and just better human beings.

Spring sports are in full swing, and boy, have they been exciting! Aggie Baseball opened their season ranked #1 in the country and looks like they’ve picked up right where they left off last year. Our defending NCAA championship women’s tennis team is currently #6 in the country and beat t.u. on the road this past weekend to open SEC play. Our #5-ranked equestrian team beat Dartmouth and UC-Davis this weekend at the Hildebrand Equine Complex while our men’s and women’s indoor track and field teams are currently ranked #5 and #12 respectively as they prepare to host the SEC Championships this week at our Fasken Indoor Track and Field Stadium. The women’s softball team is currently ranked #6 and went 5-0 this past weekend on the road. Their overall record is now 15-1 and they return home this week, so get out to Davis Diamond and cheer ‘em on! The #7-ranked men’s basketball team continues to work harder than any team in the country and is entering the stretch run of the SEC season and preparing for tournament play. Men’s Tennis is ranked #9 in the country, Women’s Golf is #17 and Men’s Golf finished fifth in a very strong field at last week’s Burns Intercollegiate Tournament. Our Aggie swimmers and divers performed spectacularly at the SEC Championships, with the men’s 400 medley team setting a new school record — Connor Foote setting a new Aggie 100-meter freestyle record and freshman Jaxon Bowshire winning gold in platform diving. If you haven’t made it to a spring sporting event, I encourage you to do so. Our student-athletes are incredible, and they deserve our support!

As February begins to wind down, here are a few things you should know:

Recent Board Of Regents Action

At the February Board of Regents meeting, I had an opportunity to join General Kim Field to brief regents on our new Citizenship and Service Initiative. We’ve been graduating great Aggies and citizens for 148 years, but we can do even better. The good news is that we’re not starting from scratch. We have an amazing group of folks here who are working through what this can look like for our university. In fact, last week, we hosted a summit to bring together faculty, staff and students to help us determine the way ahead. I want to thank everyone who came together for this important event and shared their thoughts about the role of higher education in creating great citizens and how Texas A&M can lead the way.

89th Texas Legislative Session / Federal Transition

There is a lot going on at both the state and federal levels, and I know some of the changes, especially at the federal level, have the potential to significantly impact our university and most importantly you – our students, faculty and staff. I want you all to

know that we're monitoring all of this very closely in collaboration with the System and ensuring that elected officials have a clear understanding of the potential effects of these decisions on our mission. We have teams working to understand that impact and guide our response and plans as directives move through agencies and the court system.

To support the university's implementation of federal directives and recent Governor's executive orders, we have formed a working group led by my Chief of Staff, Dr. Susan Ballabina. This group, which includes representatives from key units across the university as well as representatives from the Faculty Senate and Council of Principal Investigators, is meeting regularly to discuss the latest directives and plan our next steps.

At the state level, last month, I testified before the Texas Senate Finance Committee, and this week, I'll testify before the Texas House Appropriations Committee. As I testify about our funding needs, I'm focused on maintaining support for our base budget and two exceptional items: one to restore Institutional Enhancement funding that was cut from the base bill, which is important for student success, and a second to help us reduce student-to-faculty ratios, especially in STEM programs, increase student support services and reduce section sizes.

Capacity / Student Experience Studies

Last month, I released my decisions and next steps on our efforts to right-size the university to continue to provide an outstanding student experience for years to come. I'm happy to share that task leads have made excellent progress in the last month. Below are a few significant updates:

- An initial five- to seven-year enrollment plan, based on a capped class of 15,000 new undergraduate students each year, is well underway.
- The Strategic Budget Council received proposed funding changes to achieve desired student-to-academic advisor ratios in all targeted colleges (Mays, Undergraduate Studies, Engineering, Architecture and Veterinary Medicine).
- Funding has been identified to purchase nine diesel buses for Transportation Services to help mitigate current overcrowding issues.
- The Program of Requirements (PoR) for a new classroom building on West Campus is in development.

Leadership Updates

Cabinet

Vice President for Student Affairs: The position description is now available online, and we are actively accepting applications.

Vice President for Research: Dr. Costas N. Georgiades, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has agreed to serve as the Interim Vice President for Research, effective March 1. The search committee, chaired by Dean Mark Zoran, has been formed and the national search for our next Vice President for Research will kick off soon.

Deans

College of Architecture, College of Pharmacy and College of Veterinary Medicine

and Biomedical Sciences: Searches are underway for all three dean positions.

One last thing ... we've had a couple of reports lately of a student being insulted on our campus by someone they didn't know but believe to be another student. I would encourage anyone who hears such an exchange to remind the offender that our Core Values mean something and that we don't tolerate disrespect here. Everyone on our campus is family and deserves to be treated that way. I know we all feel that way, but to make it true, we need to be sure we walk the talk. I'd appreciate your help. Thanks, and Gig 'em!

General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, President

President's Brief - February 2025 | Office of the President | Texas A&M University



**A&M NAMES LT. GEN. JAMES W. BIERMAN JR.
AS COMMANDANT**

Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and
Communications February 26, 2025

Texas A&M University has selected U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James W. Bierman Jr. as the 47th commandant of the Corps of Cadets. Bierman will step into this role on Aug. 1, upon his retirement from active duty.

Bierman currently serves as deputy commandant for plans, policies and operations for the U.S. Marine Corps, where he is responsible for the development and execution of service plans and policies related to the operations, structure, deployment and employment of the Marine Corps.

"It's truly humbling and exciting to join the team at Texas A&M University as the commandant of the Corps of Cadets," said Bierman. "Throughout my Marine Corps career, I've encountered many Aggie servant-leaders who are a credit to this time-honored system. I'm fully committed to the mission of the Corps, and to maintaining its proud place in this great university."

Bierman has 37 years of expertise in operations, problem-solving, recruiting, training and education, strategic communications, resourcing and budget execution. He is a graduate of the U.S. military's The Basic School, Infantry Officer Course, Intelligence Officers Course, Amphibious Warfare School, Command and Staff College, School of Advanced Warfighting and the College of Naval Warfare.

"Lt. Gen. Bierman is an exemplary combat-proven leader and a decorated Marine infantry officer," said Gen. (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, president of Texas A&M. "His commitment to service and leadership aligns perfectly with the mission and Core Values of Texas A&M and the Corps of Cadets. I'm confident he will be a stellar role

model for young Aggies, embodying character, competence and dedication to living a respected and respectful life. He is the right person to lead our 'Keepers of the Spirit' as we head into the next 150 years of this great university."

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from the Virginia Military Institute and a Master of Arts in national security studies from the College of Naval Warfare.

Texas A&M Names Lt. Gen. James W. Bierman Jr. As Corps Commandant - Texas A&M Today

It should be noted that General Bierman is not the first VMI graduate to be the Commandant at A&M. Robert Page Waller Morris was a VMI graduate and was the first A&M Commandant in 1876. We have also had a VMI grad as President of A&M.



News Release

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Office of Marketing and Communications • 301 Tarrow Street
College Station, Texas 77840-7896 • 979.458.6023 • www.tamus.edu

BOARD APPROVES CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Updated on February 6, 2025

Texas A&M University is targeting a long-term commitment to in-space research on the International Space Station under a proposal approved today by the Texas A&M University System's Board of Regents.

The Board authorized President Mark A. Welsh III to negotiate a contract with AEGIS Aerospace, which would allow Aggie engineering students to conduct in-space experiments.

"The Texas A&M System is making major investments into the future of Texas today," said Chancellor John Sharp. "All of these projects align with our commitment to providing high-quality educational experiences and responding to the needs of Texas residents."

The AEGIS agreement would create the Texas A&M/ AEGIS Aerospace Multi-Use Space Platform Integrating Research & Innovative Technology facility, or TAMU-SPIRIT. The research platform would be dedicated to activities such as in-space research, testing, advanced materials manufacturing, robotics testing, space surveillance and tracking methodologies. Researchers from the Texas A&M University System will have exclusive priority rights to send samples and experiments to be installed on the research platform.

"As a space-grant university, Texas A&M has led the way in space research and exploration for decades," said General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, president of Texas A&M University. "Now, thanks to our partnership with Aegis Aerospace and support from Chancellor Sharp and The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, the TAMU-SPIRIT Flight Facility will pave the way for Aggie researchers to push the boundaries of space innovation. Our research is already out of this world; it's fitting that we're making it official."

In other action, the Regents approved more than \$239 million in construction

projects across the state. Including in this was the following:

A \$28.3 million Player Development Center at Blue Bell Park for Texas A&M University. This facility will enhance player amenities for the baseball program, supporting recruitment efforts and improving the overall experience for student-athletes. Pre-construction services are set to commence in FY 2025.

\$80 million for Student Housing Phase III and Dining Project at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

\$27 million for the South Texas Workforce Development Project at the Port of Brownsville, a new Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service facility, set to begin in April 2025.

\$40.6 million Teaching & Academic Student Support Services Facility at Prairie View A&M University starting in February 2025.

\$63.4 million Event Center/Arena Project at East Texas A&M University, a modern-multi-use arena will serve as a venue for intercollegiate sports and community events, scheduled to begin in March 2025.

Board Approves Construction Projects, In-Space Research Initiative – TAMUS System News

TEXAS A&M SYSTEM GOES NUCLEAR

By Texas A&M University System February 4, 2025



Figure 1 - A rendering of the Texas A&M University System's "energy proving ground" at the RELLIS

The Texas A&M University System has provided the missing element needed to bring more nuclear power to the state's electric grid. Chancellor John Sharp announced Tuesday he has offered land near the Texas A&M University campus to four nuclear reactor companies so they can build the latest small modular reactors, or SMRs. Until now, reactor manufacturers — along with the most powerful names in Big Tech — have not been able to find a suitable place to build clusters of nuclear reactors that can supply the power

needed for artificial intelligence endeavors, data centers and other projects.

"Plain and simple: the United States needs more power," Sharp said. "And nowhere in the country, other than Texas, is anyone willing to step up and build the power plants we need. Thanks to the leadership of Gov. Greg Abbott and others in Texas state government, Texas A&M System stands ready to step up and do what is necessary for the country to thrive."

Chief executive officers from four nuclear companies — Kairos Power, Natura Resources, Terrestrial Energy and Aalo Atomics — all have agreed to work with the System to bring reactors to Texas A&M-RELLIS, a 2,400-acre technology and innovation campus in Bryan, Texas, as part of a project dubbed "The Energy Proving Ground."

At the site, the companies will work toward bringing commercial-ready technologies to the System land and using the project to test the latest prototypes.

The first reactors could be constructed within five years. Once it is completed,

power generated at the proving ground could supply power to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, or ERCOT, as it is more commonly called.

Mike Laufer, co-founder and CEO of Kairos Power, said his company could bring one or more commercial deployments to the site. He added that the surging demand for clean electricity has brought nuclear energy to the forefront of the national discussion as a vital source of reliable, carbon-free energy.

Texas A&M System officials have streamlined the regulatory process to allow the four companies to quickly get their reactors operational. The System already began the application process with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for an Early Site Permit. The application will be for the potential development of commercial electrical and thermal power generation facilities. The proposed site at Texas A&M-RELLIS is projected to accommodate multiple SMRs with a combined electrical output of more than one gigawatt.

This project at Texas A&M-RELLIS is part of the Texas A&M System's broader commitment to advancing nuclear research, education and energy production. System officials believe the Energy Proving Ground will position the Texas A&M System as a leader in sustainable, advanced energy solutions to meet the growing energy demands of the world.

Joe Elabd, vice chancellor for research at the Texas A&M System, said, "The agreements that the Texas A&M System has with Kairos, Natura, Terrestrial and Aalo are going to change the energy landscape for the whole country," Elabd added, "The Energy Proving Ground will allow these companies to safely test their SMRs and set the stage for deploying small nuclear reactors across the country."

Texas A&M System Goes Nuclear - Texas A&M Today



News Release

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Office of Marketing and Communications • 301 Tarrow Street
College Station, Texas 77840-7896 • 979.458.6023 • www.tamus.edu

A&M SYSTEM PURCHASES A \$45 MILLION DOLLAR SUPERCOMPUTER

February 10, 2025 Bill Oliver

The Texas A&M System announces the purchase of a \$45 million dollar supercomputer. A system news release says it will also make the necessary upgrades, equipment, and installation costs at a price that was not disclosed to locate the supercomputer at the Texas A&M university's west campus data center. When it becomes operational, the system expects this to be one of the highest performing academic computers on a list compiled by the website top500.org.

The purpose of the supercomputer according to the system is to make Texas A&M "one of the world's premier destinations for students and faculty looking to develop state of the art AI skills and conduct cutting edge research."

The Texas A&M University System will be home to what is expected to be one of the highest-performance AI supercomputers at any North American university — an NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD that will triple the university's supercomputing capacity.

This investment will make Texas A&M one of the world's premier destinations for students and faculty looking to develop state-of-the-art AI skills and conduct cutting-edge research.

The A&M System also will make the necessary upgrades, equipment and

installation costs at the West Campus Data Center on the Texas A&M University campus. Upon completion, the DGX SuperPOD will feature a total of 760 NVIDIA Hopper GPUs scaled with NVIDIA Quantum-2 InfiniBand networking. When it becomes operational, the system is expected to be one of the highest-performing academic supercomputers on the TOP500 list.

“This investment will triple our computing capacity, which will support the A&M System’s growing research initiatives, particularly in areas such as machine learning, generative AI applications, graphics rendering and scientific simulations,” said Chancellor John Sharp.

“AI supercomputers enable researchers to create innovative solutions to complex global challenges,” said Jack Wells, director of higher education and research computing at NVIDIA. “Texas A&M’s new DGX SuperPOD will help transform the university into a national AI hub, providing students and faculty with access to the NVIDIA accelerated computing platform to boost AI education and research.”

Sharp said the A&M System is committed to leveraging this supercomputing infrastructure to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, drive workforce development and contribute to Texas’ economic growth and technological advancements.

Texas A&M System Announces The Purchase Of A \$45 Million Dollar Supercomputer - WTAW | 1620AM & 94.5FM



Chancellor's Century Council

COUNCIL NEWS

February 12, 2025

AGRI LIFE RESEARCH EXPENDITURES HITS NEW RECORD FOR 2024

Texas A&M AgriLife Research has been a cornerstone of our state’s progress for more than a century. What you may not know is that Texas A&M AgriLife’s Research budget — and its ability to help Texans — has grown like never before. Last year, Texas A&M AgriLife Research had its third consecutive record year with research expenditures topping \$319 million.

These expenditures span equipment, operations, salaries and scholarships, all of which have received increased support since 2022. That’s when Dr. Cliff Lamb, who leads the agency, implemented a strategic plan. The annual increases since then (\$225 million in 2021, \$254 million in 2022 and \$285 million in 2023) reflect significant growth in the AgriLife’s commitment to serve Texas, our nation and the world with leading-edge discoveries and innovation in agriculture, natural resources and the life sciences.

This is a huge win for Texas and I want to thank the faculty and staff at Texas A&M AgriLife Research. Their work ensures that Texas remains at the forefront of agricultural production, natural resource management, and community development for the next century. As always, thank you for your support.

A&M SYSTEM BOARD APPROVE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT BLUE BELL PARK

February 6, 2025 Chelsea Reber – WTAW



Figure 2 -Screen shot TAMUS Board of Regents Presentation

Athletics Director Trev Alberts, who gave the presentation at Thursday's meeting, said this is new Aggie Baseball Head Coach Michael Earley's number one priority. "As you're aware, we have some pretty good athletes in our baseball program now, and Coach Earley feels like this is his highest priority to be able to help keep, maintain and recruit the best athletes in the country."

Alberts says the facility includes new batting cages, a pitching lab, strength and conditioning spaces, team meeting rooms, sports medicine facilities, and new locker rooms. "In addition, the project will replace the existing field lighting and playing field at Olsen Field,"

Alberts said approval allows them to start on this phase of the entire Blue Bell Park project immediately, with improved stadium amenities to come during FY 2026. This phase of the project is \$28.3 million of the \$80 million total renovation project of Blue Bell Park.

Texas A&M System Board of Regents Approve Player Development Center at Blue Bell Park - WTAW | 1620AM & 94.5FM



Figure 3 - Brooke Rollins '94

BROOKE ROLLINS '94 IS NEW U.S. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

Julia Kazda, Associate News Editor Battalion - February 14, 2025

Brooke Rollins '94 was confirmed as the 33rd Secretary of Agriculture in a 72-28 Senate vote on Feb. 13, becoming the first Aggie to hold the cabinet role. In her new position, the 52-year-old heads the Agriculture Department and its nearly 100,000 employees.

From 1994-5, Agriculture Development major Rollins was Texas A&M's first female student body president and was a key speaker

at Muster in 2007.

Brooke Rollins confirmed as agriculture secretary – The Battalion



Figure 4 - U.S. Navy Capt. Ret. Don Walsh - U.S. Navy photo

US NAVY HONORS AGGIE VETERAN WITH NAMESAKE SHIP

By Ana Renfro, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications February 10, 2025

The United States Navy will name a ship after Don Walsh, an Aggie veteran who left a legacy as an ocean explorer. Walsh died in 2023 at the age of 92. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced the news on Jan. 10

during a ship-naming ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland. The future USNS Don Walsh will be a T-AGOS 25, the Navy's newest class of ocean surveillance ships, recently named the Explorer class.

The USNS Don Walsh will be one of seven such surveillance ships the Navy plans to procure. Del Toro said each will be named in honor of those who made discoveries undersea, on land and in the skies. Del Toro said the ships will play a vital role in strategic deterrence and ocean operation awareness.

Walsh enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1948 and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1954. While stationed in San Diego in 1958, he volunteered for a pioneering deep-dive program, becoming U.S. Navy Submersible Pilot No. 1 — a decision that would define his place in history. On Jan. 23, 1960, Walsh and engineer Jacques Piccard made history as the first humans to reach Challenger Deep, the deepest known point in the ocean. Piloting the Trieste bathyscaphe, they descended nearly 36,000 feet below the ocean's surface into the Mariana Trench. Their dive is widely considered one of the greatest milestones in ocean exploration. In recognition of this achievement, President Dwight D. Eisenhower awarded Walsh with the Legion of Merit.

Even as his renown as an explorer grew, Walsh remained committed to education. While still in the Navy, he earned a doctorate in oceanography from Texas A&M in 1968. "His historic dive to Challenger Deep as a navy lieutenant was just part of what would become a life of service to the country, the oceans, and the global community," his son, Kelly Walsh, said.

US Navy Honors Legendary Aggie Veteran With Namesake Ship - Texas A&M Today



STATE SENATOR FILES BILL TO CURTAIL FACULTY SENATE

J. M. Wise, Battalion News Editor - February 21, 2025

On Thursday, a bill was introduced into the 89th legislature of the Texas senate to abolish all faculty senates in the state unless they comply with the guidelines set forth by the bill Senate Bill 1489, authored by State Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-7). This bill proposes that faculty senates be

limited in their ability to act on issues, such as investigations and approving personnel

action. Any faculty senate will also report to an institution's president or designated appointee.

"A faculty council or senate is advisory only," the proposed bill reads. "A faculty council or senate may not ... be delegated final decision-making authority on any matter."

The proposed bill comes after professors and students across Texas testified before the higher education subcommittee on the necessity of faculty senates, which have historically been in charge of curriculum and guaranteeing academic freedom of professors.

A&M's Faculty Senate was founded in 1983 and states that its mission is to "facilitate effective faculty participation in academic governance ... and to engage the faculty's skills in the guidance of the university's programs."

State senator files bill to eliminate faculty senate – The Battalion



Figure 5 – LTG Gen. Michael L. Downs '92

A&M ANNOUNCES 2025 CAMPUS MUSTER SPEAKER

By Texas A&M Muster Committee February 17, 2025

The Aggie Muster Committee has named Lt. Gen. Michael L. Downs '92 as the keynote speaker for the 2025 Campus Muster ceremony. The event will take place on Monday, April 21, at 7 p.m. in Reed Arena.

Downs earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Texas A&M University, where he was commissioned as a ROTC Distinguished Graduate in 1992. He was a member of Squadron 15 and the Ross Volunteer Company.

Downs is the associate director for military affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. He serves as the military adviser to the CIA director and leads coordination and integration efforts between the CIA and the Department of Defense to maximize the United States' global advantage.

Aggie Muster is one of Texas A&M's most revered traditions, bringing Aggies together to reflect on their time at the university and honor fellow Aggies who have passed in the last year. Campus Muster is the largest of more than 200 ceremonies worldwide, uniting thousands of Aggies to celebrate the Aggie Family — past, present and future.

The 2025 ceremony will welcome honored family members and the Class of 1975 for its reunion.

Texas A&M University Announces 2025 Campus Muster Speaker - Texas A&M Today



SEC ANNOUNCES 2023-2024 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (February 6, 2025)

Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey on Thursday announced revenue distribution of \$808.4 million to the SEC's 16 universities for the 2023-24 fiscal year, which ended August 31, 2024.

"The SEC's annual distribution of revenue helps member universities maintain strong athletics programs while supporting the academic and athletic ambitions of thousands

of student-athletes across the conference," Sankey said. "As the entire college athletics enterprise works through significant change, SEC universities are uniquely positioned to provide new financial benefits for student-athletes while continuing to deliver transformative, life-changing college experiences."

The total includes \$790.7 million distributed directly from the conference office, and an additional \$17.7 million retained by universities that participated in 2023-24 football bowl games. The amount distributed from the conference office, excluding bowl expenses retained by participants, averaged \$52.5 million for schools with full year participation.

The total distribution amount for the 14 schools receiving a full revenue share is comprised of revenue generated from television agreements, post-season bowl games, the College Football Playoff, the SEC Football Championship Game, the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament, and NCAA Championships. The University of Oklahoma and tu, which joined the conference on July 1, 2024, each received \$27.5 million.

The distribution amount does not include an additional \$8.1 million of NCAA and SEC grants divided among the 14 universities that were members of the SEC for the entirety of the 2023-24 fiscal year.

SEC announces 2023-2024 revenue distribution - Southeastern Conference



POWER CONFERENCES, NOT NCAA, TO CONTROL ATHLETIC COMPENSATION

Ross Dellenger, Senior College Football Reporter - February 6, 2025

A committee of power conference administrators took significant steps this week toward the creation of a new entity that will govern the evolving professionalized aspects

of college sports, a milestone moment in the industry's history. During a two-day summit in the nation's capital, a "transition team," charged with operationalizing concepts of the House settlement, inched closer to establishing a new structure to oversee, manage and enforce the settlement-related athlete compensation system for all of NCAA Division I. The newly created LLC, overseen by a CEO or executive director, is centered on a new enforcement arm to police violators of the industry's new salary cap and is expected to feature revenue-sharing policies and a corresponding penalty structure for violators.

This new entity dovetails with a proposal introduced last month from the power conferences that grants them more autonomy and creates a new division or subdivision within the NCAA. It stands as another shift in the transformation of major college athletics as the NCAA deregulates itself and cedes more authority to the power leagues after court rulings toppled its long-standing amateurism rules.

Texas A&M athletic director Trev Alberts confirmed Thursday he was part of a group of college athletics administrators from power conferences who met in Washington, D.C. earlier this week to work on creating a new entity to oversee and govern a pending revenue-sharing system.

Monumental shift: Power conferences, not NCAA, to control policing athlete compensation - Yahoo Sports



SELECTING THE LOCATION OF THE A&M COLLEGE

Galveston Daily News - C. G. Forshey - July 8, 1871

Editors News: In order to answer once for all, the questions so often asked of me, respecting the location and interests of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, I address you this note. At a distance of four

miles, south of Bryan, in Brazos County, and on both sides of the Central railroad, the citizens of that enterprising town had selected and tendered to the Commissioners the several tracts of land, amounting to about 2814 acres. Some two thousand acres are prairie, and the remainder wooded, chiefly post-oak land. Along the ravines and valleys, elm, hackberry, persimmon, water and pin-oak and grave grow.

The soil is all good, some excellent, of the quality known as "black sandy prairie," with post-oak "openings"; partly of like quality, but more sandy. On the Rector farm about thirty acres of corn is now maturing that will yield some forty bushels of corn per acre, without any special cultivation. The field is on the highest summit and thinnest soil of the tract. The charge that it is *poor land* is unjust and unfounded. The whole tract is

what is called rolling land, neither level nor hilly, and no waste land on it. The particular site selected for the college buildings is a summit, the very highest in all the region, and overlooking the whole country around, the city of Bryan included. Every acre of the league will be visible from the portico of the institution. The ground slopes very gently in all directions, from this summit, and the front of the buildings, which will face southward, will be visible for miles to the passers-by on the railroad. There are no perennial streams of water on the land, nor would it have been easy to secure such, without a loss of some one of the great advantages possessed by this central locality. Pools, which abound in this vicinity and are easily constructed, and cisterns must supply all the water needed.

A careful examination has proven that the great wish of the Commissioners may be accomplished, and the buildings erected of stone. Two kinds are found, the white and gray sand stone, in many localities within three to ten miles, and the red sand stone or fouginous brown sand rock, within five to fifteen miles, and both near to the railroad. Brick has been made of pretty good quality, on the lands within half a mile of the College site, but I am not ready to recommend it. At about two and half miles southeast there is ample brick earth of the best quality.

No amateur landscape designer could have presented a more beautiful site for an institution of learning aspiring to become the central college of the State University; and its buildings are being projected with that classic dignity that may fit them for such a destiny. The industrial feature, it is hoped, may warrant such distinction. It may not be amiss here to add an item for general information as to the origin and design of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

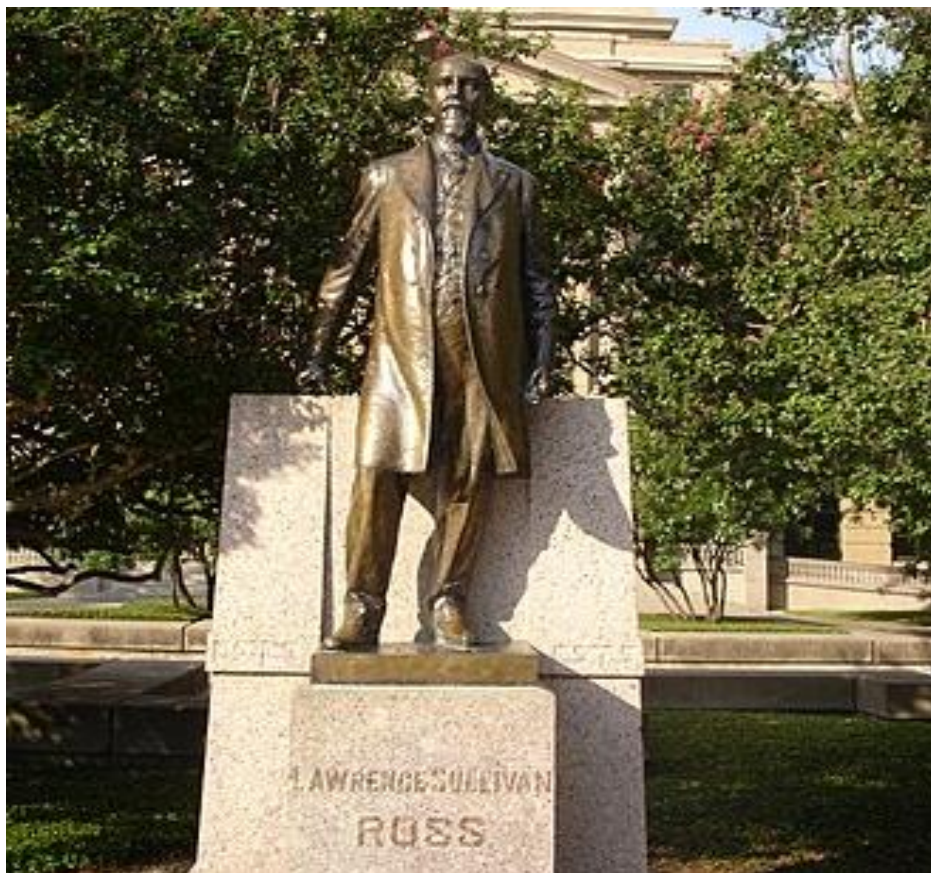
In the year 1862 the Congress of the United States passed an act donating to each state 30,000 acres of land, or land scrip, for each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, for the purpose of establishing an industrial college, in which agriculture and the mechanic arts should be thoroughly, practically and scientifically taught, *not excluding* higher letters, languages and philosophy. Military tactics and disciplines are also prescribed. The act required that the States should accept and make certain corresponding appropriations.

The States South were not in a condition to act in the premises till after reconstruction, and a supplementary act was passed enabling them to avail themselves of the donation. The State of Texas, in the month of May last, passed an act appropriating \$75,000 of the School Fund for the purchase of the lands required, and for the erection of the buildings necessary to comply with the United States law. The recent act of the Commissioners in accepting the munificent donation of the citizens of Bryan, and in the purchase of additional lands and buildings adapted to the temporary purposes of the school, while the main buildings are being erected, have accomplished all the purposes required to avail of the nation's grant, and have secured for Texas beyond recall the opportunity of assuming a proud position among the States striving to

elevate industry, by associating it with science and high intellectual culture. Fortunately, the terrible and almost fatal accident which has befallen Dr. Geo. B. Slaughter, of the Commission, occurred after the final location and purchase, in time to save the United States donation. Respectfully submitted by, C. G. Forshey, Architect of the Commission.

[Note: Dr. Slaughter's carriage turned over and he was crushed.]

Galveston Daily News, July 8, 1871, page 4



Lawrence Sullivan Ross – Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman

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

To provide our thoughts and communication with our membership, the SRG board has decided to communicate directly through bulletins sent by email to the Class Agents who will then share with those in their Classes. Anyone is free to pass these bulletins to any Aggie, friends of Aggies, or just friends. The Board plans to maintain our policy of complete transparency and that is the reason we have inserted the disclaimer on the front page of this bulletin. **You can contact us at:**

SRGbulletin@gmail.com

The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are solely 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 on pertinent topics in a timely manner.

Note: All the Bulletins from Bulletin #1 to the current Bulletin are available to be viewed on the SRG Website at www.ferrata.net/srg/portal.aspx. Click on 'Uploaded Files.'

Suggest you use "Google Chrome", "Firefox", or "Microsoft Edge" as a browser.

To access information about us as the elected SRG Board of Directors, and our Constitution and By-Laws, and the SRG's history and what we are about, please refer to our new **"SRG Tab"** (Under "Programs") on The Association's website, at: **aggienetwork.com**.

If you wish to comment to those who decide:

Chancellor John Sharp: **chancellor@tamus.edu**

The Board of Regents: **vickie@tamus.edu** or **jbell@tamus.edu**

President Mark Welsh: **president@tamu.edu**

Provost Alan Sams: **asams@tamu.edu**

Athletic Director Trev Alberts: **lchamberlin@athletics.tamu.edu**

VPSA Tom Reber: **treber@tamu.edu**

Commandant Chip Utterback: **lutterback@corps.tamu.edu**

SRG Board of Directors' Resolutions for: 2024 – 2025

****To keep the Sul Ross Group (SRG) membership informed of pertinent topics and activities on campus through periodic SRG Bulletins.**

****As investors of A&M, to continue to meet with and to offer our support and assistance to the leadership of TAMUS, TAMU, the Association of Former Students, A&M Foundation, the Commandant, the Corps Commander, and student government leaders.**

****To support A&M's Core Values and traditions and share these with all we meet, especially students, stressing unity of purpose and effort within the A&M community.**

****To continue the ongoing review, execution and improvement of new student integration and assimilation into TAMU, working with and assisting the V.P. of Student Affairs, if invited, by periodically observing new student orientation – avoiding "not too much nor too little" oversight of student run organizations.**

****Be it resolved that the SRG support their strategic goal of preserving what sets TAMU apart as distinctive and transcendent, as elder statesmen, and in accordance with the SRG's four established Constitutional objectives while serving TAMU, the Association, and our membership.**