

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Ninety-Eight (99)



June 12, 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.

FANTASTIC NEWS IN SUPPORT OF OUR CORPS

June 9, 2025 by Chancellor John Sharp, Chancellor's Century Council News

We asked our state lawmakers to show support for our mission and our values – particularly when it comes to the Corps of Cadets – during the most recent session.

Thanks to the hard work of our government relations team, the Texas A&M System secured critical state funding and other assistance that directly benefit the Corps of Cadets.

Here are the highlights:

Budgetary Wins

- Hollingsworth Center for Ethical Leadership: \$617,500 annually to enhance program development, curricular alignment and faculty recruitment.
- Corps of Cadets Uniform Allowance: \$3 million annually to cover uniform costs for drill and ceremony cadets.

Support for Military Education

- Senior Military College Leadership & Teaching Initiative: \$1.45 million annually to the Texas Military Department to collaborate with senior military colleges on leadership and teaching programs.
- State Military Tuition Assistance: \$7 million annually for tuition reimbursement for members of the Texas Military Forces.

Legislative Achievements

- HB 102 (Chairman Terry Wilson '88 & Sen. Kelly Hancock): The Legislature voted to allow early registration for classes to students in ROTC, Corps of Cadets and maritime academies.
- HB 5646 (Chairman Terry Wilson '88 & Sen. Bob Hall): The Legislature expanded in-state tuition eligibility for members of the Corps of Cadets from other states. It also requires institutions to consider military intent in admissions decisions.
- HB 300 (Chairman Terry Wilson '88 & Sen. Kelly Hancock): The Legislature streamlined the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program, which enhances clarity around the Texas State Guard and establishes a scholarship coordinator at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- SB 365: (Sen. Sarah Eckhardt & Rep. Donna Howard): The Legislature voted to enable “an academic fresh start” by allowing institutions to disregard academic records older than 10 years—benefiting many of our non-traditional and military-affiliated students.

I would like to call out a few lawmakers for their work on these issues:

As head of House Committee on Higher Education, Chairman Terry Wilson '88 was instrumental in supporting the Corps of Cadets.

Also, House appropriators, Chairman Greg Bonnen, M.D. '88 and Rep. Stan Kitzman '88, as well as Senate Finance Chair Joan Huffman and committee members Sen. Charles Schwertner and Sen. Brandon Creighton deserve our thanks for their leadership and support for the Corps of Cadets.



TEXAS A&M TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) celebrated its 75th anniversary Thursday afternoon with comments by dignitaries and tours of its facility at the Texas A&M RELLIS campus.

June 6, 2025 by Joe Southern, The Eagle

Kelly Templin, Executive Director of the Texas A&M-RELLIS campus

To read the full article visit the link below.

https://theeagle.com/news/a_m/article_bee2925d-5a1f-4043-a22a-6c7abd714d9f.html

RELLIS DIRECTOR UPDATES REGENTS

Texas A&M University's RELLIS campus has seen transformational change since the first academic building opened there in 2019. More is on the way. Kelly Templin, RELLIS's executive director, told the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents about how more change is coming during Friday's workshop and provided an update on several different projects going on at the campus.

May 31, 2025 by Stephen Whitaker, The Eagle

To read the full article visit the link below.

https://theeagle.com/news/a_m/article_b840bc47-a042-4c6f-9821-682d153af028.html

TEXAS A&M REGENTS APPROVE MILLIONS IN PROJECTS, ADDRESSES STUDENT NEEDS AND CAMPUS GROWTH

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents met Thursday for its second quarterly meeting of 2025, approving major changes to student policies, funding, and campus development plans

May 29, 2025 by Lillian Kosh, KBTX

To read the full article visit the link below.

<https://www.kbtx.com/2025/05/30/millions-dollars-approved-am-projects-regents-address-student-needs-campus-growth/?outputType=amp>

NEW TEXAS NIL LAW WILL GO INTO IMMEDIATE EFFECT UPON GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

The state of Texas' new name, image and likeness (NIL) bill will go into immediate effect after it is signed by Gov. Greg Abbott, thanks to a two-thirds majority vote from the House of Representatives Thursday.

May 30, 2025 by Travis L. Brown, KBTX

To read the full article visit the link below.

<https://www.kbtx.com/2025/05/30/new-texas-nil-law-will-go-into-immediate-effect-upon-governors-signature/?outputType=amp>

HOW TEXAS A&M INITIALLY PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THE HOUSE SETTLEMENT TO ITS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

A reporter broke the near deafening silence of the media workroom at the Hilton Sandestin Resort with a question that has been on everyone's mind in the world of college athletics.

May 30, 2025 by Travis L. Brown, KBTX To read the full article visit the link below.

<https://www.kbtx.com/2025/05/30/how-texas-am-initially-plans-implement-house-settlement-its-athletic-programs/?outputType=amp>



TEXAS A&M HAS A NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Returning to Aggieland is Bill Kibler, who previously served two VPSA's when he was at A&M between 1980 and 2004.

May 29, 2025 by Bill Oliver, WTAW

To read the full article visit the link below.

<https://wtaw.com/texas-am-has-a-new-vice-president-of-student-affairs/>

TEXAS LEGISLATURE PASSES BILL RESHAPING HIGHER EDUCATION

The gubernatorially appointed boards that oversee Texas universities soon could have new powers to control the curriculum required of students and eliminate degree programs.

June 2, 2025 by David A. Lieb, Julie Carr Smyth, and Nadia Lathan, The Eagle

To read the full article visit the link below

<https://apnews.com/article/colleges-universities-dei-texas-ohio-florida-6ad0bf2c6f9255426aa1b39d3b01a0a1>



BILLS AFFECTING B-CS, A&M PASSED

Housing issues, Corps of Cadets among items awaiting Abbott's OK

June 3, 2025 by Stephen Whitaker, The Eagle

Photo Credit: Meredith Seaver, The Eagle

The 89th session of the Texas Legislature concluded its 140-day run Monday with several bills passed that will affect the cities of Bryan and College Station as well as Texas A&M University.

Among the bills sent to Gov. Greg Abbott to sign that could affect the local area was Senate Bill 2, which approved \$8 billion in funding for public schools, SB 37 which increases state oversight of public universities and SB 1567 which will allow more than four non-family residents to rent a house together in a college town.

Jenny Jones, A&M University System vice chancellor for governmental relations, presented an update on how this legislative session affected the university system at last week's A&M Board of Regents workshop.

"[The Legislature] filed more bills this session than any other session to date," Jones told the regents. "They filed 87,00 bills and we kept track of around 2,300 of those. A lot of them didn't go anywhere but there are a lot of things we have to keep an eye on affecting not just the obvious things like academic affairs or our business operations.

[The Legislature has a say in] how we procure things and how we can contract, how we can do IT and all sorts of issues that are important to the system."

Among the victories for the A&M System in the latest legislative session was increased funding for state agencies run by A&M as well as the Corps of Cadets and RELLIS campus.

The Legislature approved a funding structure that will provide a \$30,000 ROTC scholarship and a bill that will allow members of an ROTC to register early. Lawmakers also approved a bill to allow all members of the Corps of Cadets to pay in-state tuition whether they are Texas residents or not and approved funding for the Corps to get new uniforms.

There were areas where A&M is still working for the next session. One item that didn't get passed was a request of \$46 million for creation of a STEM degree at Texas A&M that was brought forth by President Mark A. Welsh III.

"It was a very well-thought out and meritorious, righteous request to support the demand for a STEM degree at Texas A&M and I wish we'd gotten it," Jones said. "I also want to let y'all know that President Welsh was in the capital more than probably the last three or four presidents combined."

Jones also shared with the regents how many former students were in the Legislature this session. In the Senate there were two former students, Paul Bettencourt and Pete Flores. The Texas House of Representatives have 19 former students and 10 of those are committee chairmen. Greg Bonnen, Appropriations Committee chairman, is one of those 10 Aggie chairs as is Public Education Committee chairman Brad Buckley. Paul Dyson is one of three Aggies who took part in their first session as representatives this year.



Reveille X - April 2021 - Texas A&M Today - Jesse Everett – Texas A&M Marketing & Communication

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:

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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.**