

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Fifty-Seven



July 15, 2022

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.

FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIES REACH COLLEGE WORLD SERIES SEMI-FINALS

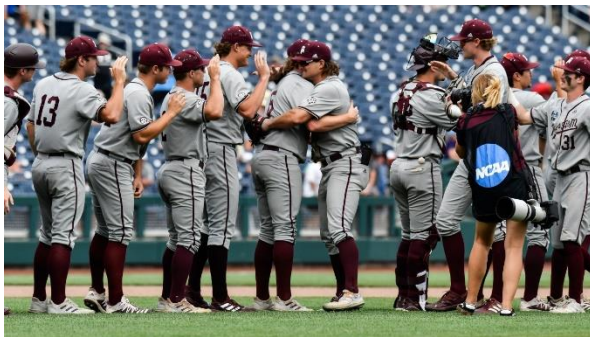


Figure 1 – Photo by James Maury – TexAgs.com

In his first year as the baseball coach for Texas A&M, Coach Jim Schlossnagle's team won the SEC West, scored both regional playoff and superregional hosting opportunities and reached the semi-final game against Oklahoma in the College World Series in Omaha. The Aggies won seven straight SEC series', defeated Oral

Roberts University and TCU to win the College Station Regional and defeated the

University of Louisville in the Superregional to win a trip to Omaha. After being outscored by OU in the first game in Omaha, the Aggies responded with elimination game victories over t.u. and Notre Dame to send both teams home early. The 2022 Aggie baseball team won more games at the College World Series than ever before. Coach Schlossnagle and his staff built the team with veterans from the previous year and first-year transfers all of which paints a very bright picture for the future of baseball at Texas A&M.

SAVELL NAMED VICE CHANCELLOR AND DEAN OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

As reported by the Office of the Chancellor in a story by Laylan Copelin, dated June 3, 2022, The Texas A&M University System's Board of Regents named a much-decorated professor, Jeffrey W. Savell '75, Ph.D., as Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences for Texas A&M.



Figure 2 - Dr. Jeffrey W. Savell. Photo by Sam Craft.

“Savell is a University Distinguished Professor, Regents Professor, and the E.M. ‘Manny’ Rosenthal Chair in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M. He earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from Texas A&M.”

“Dr. Savell is a great Aggie who is well-respected within academia and the agricultural community,” said Chancellor John Sharp. “An added bonus – he makes pretty good barbecue!”

“Savell teaches the introductory course in meat science as well as a freshmen class on Texas barbecue. He also leads a graduate course in carcass composition and quality and team-teaches a graduate and undergraduate course in Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point.”

A past president of the American Meat Science Association, Savell is a member of the Meat Industry Hall of Fame.

“Dr. Savell is a highly recognized scholar who has been identified among the top 2% of most-cited researchers in the world,” said Texas A&M President M. Katherine Banks. “His impact and long tenure at Texas A&M include teaching 12,000 Aggies and producing 150 graduate students who have become leaders in academia, industry and government.”

To read the rest of the story, click on the link below

[Savell new Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences - AgriLife Today \(tamu.edu\)](#)

TEXAS A&M NAMES TRISH FORD AS NEW SOFTBALL COACH

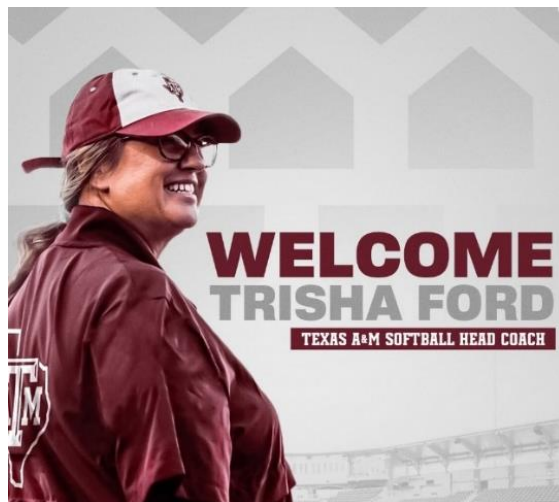


Figure 3 - Trish Ford, Texas A&M Softball Coach.

As reported in a press release by the Texas A&M Athletic Department on June 7, 2022, Texas A&M has named Trisha Ford as its new softball coach. Ford is set to replace Jo Evans, whose contract was not renewed following 26 seasons with the Aggies.

Ford has spent her last six seasons as the head coach of Arizona State University (ASU).

According to the Texas A&M Athletic Department web page, Ford was named Pac-12 Coach of the Year and led the team to a

World Series berth in 2018. Prior to her time with the Sun Devils, Ford coached the Fresno

State Bulldogs.

During her time with Fresno State, she claimed her first conference title in 2015 and led the school to a second conference title in 2016. She was also named Mountain West Coach of the Year in both 2015 and 2016, becoming just the third coach in MWC history to earn this recognition, according to Arizona State University. Ford has amassed a 397-226-1 (.686) career record over her head coaching career.

To read more about Trish Ford, click on the link below:

[Trisha Ford - Head Coach - Staff Directory - Texas A&M Athletics - 12thMan.com](#)

BUC-EE'S CREATOR GIVING \$50 MILLION FOR HOSPITALITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM AT TEXAS A&M

As reported in a press release written by Kelly Brown in the Texas AM University Division of Marketing & Communications, on June 2, 2022, "Arch "Beaver" Aplin III, one of the university's most successful entrepreneurs – is contributing \$50 million toward establishing an academic center that will serve as an immersive learning laboratory for students."

"When Beaver Aplin does something, it's never halfway!" said Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp. "The love he has and shows for Texas A&M and Aggies is inspirational and appreciated. This is an awesome gift and will position Texas A&M to become the top hospitality program in the nation."

"Primary academic partners will be the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Mays Business School, although other academic units will be involved in specialty projects"

Texas A&M President Dr. M. Katherine Banks said "Arch 'Beaver' Aplin is a true visionary and one of the most creative entrepreneurs I have known," Banks said. "He remains connected to his university, speaking to many students who share his passion for business and product development. Through this generous gift, he is creating a living, learning laboratory that will provide transformational opportunities for our students. The Aplin Center will positively impact Aggies for generations to come."

To read the rest of the story, click on the link below:

[Buc-ee's Creator Giving \\$50 Million For Hospitality Entrepreneurship Program at Texas A&M - Texas A&M Today \(tamu.edu\)](#)

STUDENT PROTEST AT VPSA'S OFFICE – "THREE SIDES TO THE STORY??"

As Reported by Kyle McGlenagan of [The Battalion](#) on 20 April 2022, "VPSA Ramirez Refuses to Meet with Student Protesters," after weeks into an organized sit-in protest Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA), Joe E. Ramirez refused to meet with the organizers, with no indication of meeting on a future date. On March 23, student organizers began a sit-in demonstration outside of Ramirez's office in the John J.

Koldus Building, demanding to meet with him after several alleged attempts to set up a meeting via email failed.

Almost a month later, on April 20, students entered the waiting room of the VPSA's office where they were ultimately asked by the University Police to limit their numbers to two members inside while the rest could continue protesting in the hallway. The protestors agree to leave the waiting room and return to the hallway only if Ramirez would respond to their request. Associate VPSA Vicki Dobiyanski asked Ramirez, and then relayed his message that he would not be meeting with the students.

During the first day of the sit-in, one of the organizers of the event, university studies junior Elis Howard, said the goal from the beginning was to schedule a meeting with Ramirez to discuss the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue on campus. "We are here today to schedule a meeting with the VPSA on behalf of Students for a Democratic Society, Young Dems BCS and Rosie's TAMU for our No Monuments to White Supremacy campaign," Howard said. "Which is calling for increased funding and creative programs to increase enrollment of Black, Brown and Indigenous students at A&M, to hire and retain faculty of color at A&M and to bolster resources for minority students at A&M as well as remove the Sullivan Ross statue." Howard also said the group will not stop until it secures a meeting with Ramirez. "We're going to continue doing actions, there's no stopping this," Howard said. "If the sit-in doesn't work this time we're going to move on to another escalation of actions."

On April 20, five of the students entered the waiting room in violation of the two-person minimum, where they were reminded by an employee of the university Expressive Activities Committee that the limit was still enforced. "I know that they [the VPSA's office] had requested it be two people in here, I think that we accommodate those two people seeing as this isn't a traditional public forum," a university employee said. After occupying the reception area for over 10 minutes, a second Expressive Activities Committee employee entered and informed the protestors that if they did not comply with the rules the University Police would be contacted.

"We also want to inform you of the rules and policies," the second employee said. "This is not a public forum so the vice president's office asked that only two people sit in the area, and if y'all don't comply to that y'all will be asked to leave by [University Police]." The protestors continued to occupy even after the campus police arrived and only agreed to leave if they knew their request was heard by Ramirez. It was at this point that Dobiyanski, who had recently entered the office, informed them that Ramirez had denied their request. "I spoke with Joe Ramirez, he has your list of requests in hand, he is not going to schedule a meeting at this time," Dobiyanski said. The protestors then asked if he would ever schedule a meeting to which Dobiyanski responded. "He is not going to schedule a meeting ... that's what I was told," Dobiyanski said.

After returning to the hallway, one of the protestors, Jyothis James, a fourth-year philosophy Ph.D. candidate, said the whole situation was very interesting. "It baffles me as to how the vice president for student affairs can completely ignore that and put on a kangaroo court and just completely reject these concerns that students keep bringing up," James said. "I really wonder if this is the type of university and university administration that students want."

For context and a few facts in review; on the 25th of January 2021, the TAMU System Regents met with the Chancellor, TAMU President and others to receive the Commission Report on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (CDEI), hear briefing comments from commissioners Williams and Hurtado, and then receive a recommendation briefing from Interim TAMU President Junkins about his recommended plan of action.

The Regents then followed with a motion to approve followed by a rollcall, public, unanimous vote to approve the “Eight Steps” recommendations. If one goes to this site access address, you can read the CDEI Report and also the Joint Statement of support from The Association of Former Students and The Texas A&M Foundation in support of the TAMU Plan. Texas A&M System Regents Approve Plans to Improve Diversity - The Texas A&M University System (tamus.edu) You will have to scroll down after the overview and can click on the Commission on DEI Report, then select and read the Joint Statement.

Additionally, one can find at this site access address, The TAMU System Regents’ Statement: 01-25-2021 BOR Statement on Diversity.pdf (tamus.edu). We draw your attention to the approved action Item Seven (7) at the end of the Statement. It provides a policy decision about the disposition of the Ross statue and what the plan is to finalize accompanying details to be added. For your convenience, here is what #7 says:

“7. Establish an action-oriented task force to accurately and fully tell the story of Texas A&M’s history through displays and iconography.
o The task force shall deliver its recommendations to the President of Texas A&M University by summer 2021 to facilitate the President’s presentation of recommendations to the Chancellor and Board of Regents at the August 2021 meeting.
o Design spaces to recognize historical figures in addition to that of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, perhaps reimagining Academic Plaza and/or identifying other additional spaces for future recognition (note: the resultant report has sent been issued).
o The task force shall be composed of equal numbers of student leaders, faculty, staff, and members of The Association of Former Students, The Texas A&M Foundation and 12th Man Foundation.
o Budget for and ascertain the external expertise necessary to support the task force’s work.”

The TAMUS Regents are nominated by the Texas Governor and confirmed by the Senate, State of Texas, and own the responsibility to oversee the TAMU System and Chancellor and make authoritative decisions on matters such as this. On the 25th of January, the Board of Regents did just that about the Ross Statue - confirming previous statements and declarations by the Chancellor. The Association of Former Students and The Texas A&M Foundation followed and issued a joint statement of support to the Board of Regents’ Statement.

More to the story? Well, yes! Additionally, it is important to note that the Eight Steps are centered on improving the enrollment of black and underrepresented student groups to TAMU with resource support. The plan of action to carry this out is underway by the TAMU President. Here are the rest of “The Steps” to help unrepresented students to

refresh your memory:

1. Expand the student pipeline for underrepresented groups by 2026
2. Increase the Regents Scholar Program by more than 10%
3. Increase National Recognition Scholarships
4. Establish Pathways to Doctorate Fellowships
5. Grow the ACES Fellows Faculty Program
6. Recognize more Aggies Leading by Example
7. Establish a Task Force to fully tell the Texas A&M history through displays and iconography (in addition to that of the LSR Statue which will remain in place)
8. Document and communicate the success of our many former students of color

Note: one can access the statement here:

01-25-2021 BOR Statement on Diversity.pdf (tamus.edu) These actions are intended to help TAMU “better recruit, welcome and serve more members of under-represented groups in fulfillment of our land grant mission.”

One can address the entire Battalion article here: https://www.thebatt.com/news/vpsa-ramirez-refuses-to-meet-with-student-protesters/article_4c590e66-c0fa-11ec-92eb-abdf52dcf8a0.html

STATE OF THE CORPS -2022

An annual report entitled “State Of The Corps/ 2021-2022” from the Office of the Commandant of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets contained the following material and information. This material is from the Commandant’s e-newsletter.

Academics

“Focusing on academics as our number one priority resulted in a very successful year for our cadets. The Corps of Cadets posted a spring 2022 term overall GPA of **3.19!** 71% of students in the Corps posted a 3.0 or higher and 252 posted a 4.0. The freshman class, Class of 2025, continues to set records with the highest first class term GPA on record at a 3.20.”

“cadets are able to balance the demands of their Corps experience with academics well, and they completed above-average hours to degree progress. The class of 2022 is the 8th consecutive class to finish their time in the Corps with a term and cumulative GPA above a 3.0. Additionally, all four classes posted a term GPA above a 3.0.”

“This year, we increased academic support efforts sponsored by the Office of the Commandant and worked closely with the colleges to help our cadets succeed academically. The Corps of Cadets has a reputation of academic excellence among the faculty and administration – something that is critical to the overall success of our Corps at Texas A&M. Congratulations to our cadets for the outstanding academic success they achieved this year”

Corps Strength



“The Corps of Cadets began the school year with a strength of 2,143 cadets. A few snapshots of the 2021-2022 Corps:

- 679 new cadets joined the Corps in the fall semester, with an additional 50 joining in the spring”
- The class of 2025 was 21% female at the beginning of the Spring 2021 semester
- 21% of our cadets were from out of state”

We continue to place a focused effort on recruiting high-quality young men and women to join the Corps of Cadets. Our goal is to continue to “grow the Corps” and ensure we maintain the high standards of excellence for which our cadets and the Corps of Cadets are known!

During the school year, the Commandant's newsletter, from which this material is excerpted, is distributed to those who wish to be kept up to date on the Corps of Cadets.

To be added to this mailing list, submit your email address to <http://corps.tamu.edu/newsletter/>

Texas A&M Foundation Corps Development Team

Donors who wish to invest in the continued growth and success of the Corps are encouraged to contact our Corps of Cadets development team at the following::

givetocorps@txamfoundation.com

NOTES _____

HOW TO REACH AND ACCESS INFORMATION ABOUT US

One can send messages to the Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD). To access information about us as your elected representatives, the SRG Constitution, and other information about the SRG as an organization, please refer to our relatively new “**SRG Tab**” (Under “**Programs**”) on The Association’s website, at: aggienetwork.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 could be recipients. That rescission and change in policy also included three conditions: (1) that SRG Bulletins can no longer express opinions, or include "opinion-based" material, (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 elected 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. This is why that in Bulletin 55 there was a "notice" on page one explaining that this change was about to be made. 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.

If you wish comment to those who decide:

Chancellor Sharp: chancellor@tamus.edu

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

President Banks: president@tamu.edu

COO Hartman: gharman@tamu.edu

Interim Provost Scott: t-scott@tamu.edu

VP Student Affairs Ramirez: jramirez@vpsa.tamu.edu

Athletic Director Bjork: rrabun@athletics.tamu.edu