

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Forty-Eight

5 December 2021

Texas A&M System Board Of Regents Approves Proceeding With \$205 Million In New Construction For Fightin' Texas Aggie Athletics

As reported by Bill Oliver, [WTAU News](#), 18 November 2021, the TAMUS Regents approved a comprehensive plan to upgrade Texas Aggie Athletics facilities. His article and the schematic provide insight as to how this will all unfold over the years to come and the accompanying objectives:

"The Texas A&M system board of regents approves proceeding with \$205 million dollars in new construction for Aggie athletics. That includes a \$125M expansion and renovation of the Bright football complex, add 31 football suites at the south end of Kyle Field at a cost of \$25M, and build a \$55M indoor track next to the recently opened outdoor facility.



Texas A&M system image sketched by [WTAU News](#).

The Bright football complex portion of the project would include a new indoor football practice facility; a new academic support center for student athletes, relocate the Slocum Nutrition Center; and renovate the first and second floors of the complex.

The project start date will be during the current fiscal year. The system's chief facilities officer, Brett McCully, told the regents building and facilities committee that once this is on the system's master capital plan, they can "engage the architect and the construction managers to work through the details." McCully also said "we understand from the scheduling that we need to start

the new indoor facilities first, but consistently”, and “we’ve got to work out the details of the rest of the project as we go.”

The regents action also appropriates \$20.5M for pre-construction services and related project costs, contingent upon the completion of a Program of Requirements (POR) scoped to the approved budget for the Bright Area Development project.

According to the regents background information, the flagship campus is starting a fundraising effort and plans to replace a minimum of \$125M of the cost with gifts as the debt service source. For the revenue financing service (RFS) debt to be repaid with gifts, the university plans to obtain a guarantee from the 12th Man Foundation to cover any shortfall in gift revenue and any shortfall in total revenue to cover the required 1.15x debt service coverage.

Before construction begins, Texas A&M system policy requires 50 percent of the gift fund money in hand and an additional 25 percent in documented pledges. For any funds not in hand, an unrestricted source of funds must be identified to pay for the project or for the repayment of debt prior to approval for construction.

Dovetailed with these improvements is the addition of new premium suites at the south end of Kyle Field for the added benefit to the overall fan experience.

In addition, the Texas A&M System and the Aggie Athletics Department desire to construct a new training and competition venue for the Indoor Track programs. With the proposed enhancements and expansion in the Bright Area Development Project, this facility will be necessary for continuity of training and the future success of the Men’s and Women’s Track programs.

The project will re-establish Texas A&M as a leading host site of both SEC Championship and NCAA National Championship level competitions – providing national exposure for the programs and the university. The facility will consolidate the Indoor and Outdoor Track programs into a single destination on West Campus, allowing for maximum utilization of student-athlete, coaching, training, and media facilities located at E.B. Cushing Outdoor Track and the West Campus Player Development Center. This hub will solidify Texas A&M as the gold standard of track and field facilities and be a powerful tool in the recruitment of future national champions.”

One can access the entire WTAW article on the Web at: [Texas A&M System Board Of Regents Approves Proceeding With \\$205 Million In New Construction For Aggie Athletics - WTAW | 1620AM & 94.5FM](#)

Coach Slocum Completed His Cancer Treatments



“When the going gets tough, the tough get going!” This is the epitome of Coach R.C. Slocum!

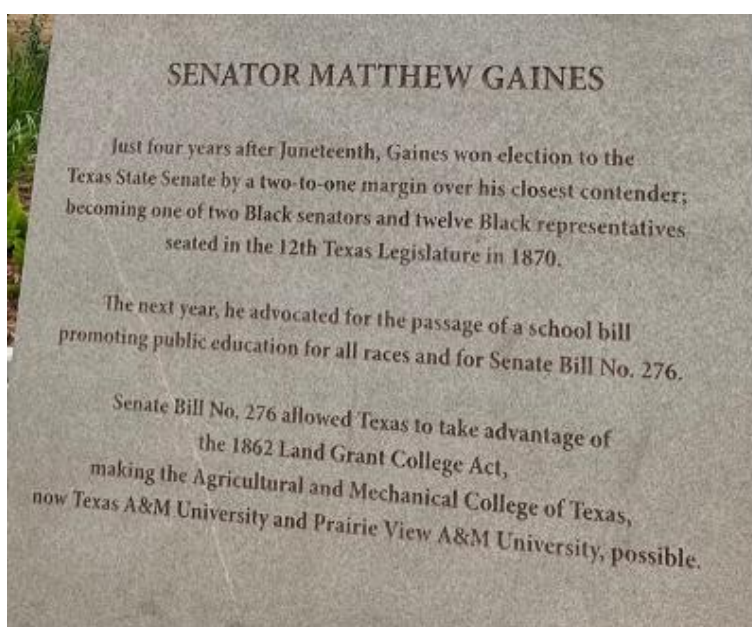
As reported by Darryl Bruffett of KBTX, Bryan, Texas on Nov. 29, 2021, Coach Slocum has faced a lot of formidable opponents when he was on the sidelines as a college head football coach at Texas A&M, but his most recent battle was

against a form of Hodgkin's lymphoma that he was diagnosed with back in July. *"God is still in the miracle performing business," said R.C. Slocum after wrapping up his cancer treatment at the Baylor Scott & White Clinic Cancer Center Monday afternoon.*

"I know the feeling when you first hear the diagnosis. I was out playing golf and then a few days later I found out I had cancer and that's a shocking thing," added the former Texas A&M head football coach. One can access the entire article here, and we certainly recommend you watch the included short video – inspiring!

<https://www.kbtx.com/2021/11/30/rc-slocum-completes-cancer-treatment-says-it-has-made-him-better-person/>

Senator Matthew Gaines Statue Unveiled on Texas A&M Campus 19 November 2021



On Friday, 19 November 2021, Senator Matthew Gaines' statue was unveiled in a ceremony on the TAMU campus. It is located in an area just northeast of the Aggie Memorial Student Center – and just southeast of Simpson Field. One can read about it by going to the Web at: https://www.thebatt.com/news/lasting-impact/article_f4636f1e-4992-11ec-b5ad-fb26ad0d1b01.html

Texas A&M Achieves Designation from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) as an Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)

As reported by Lesley Henton, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications, November 30, 2021, Texas A&M University has achieved designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). HACU awards the designation to educational institutions where total Hispanic enrollment constitutes a minimum of 25 percent of the total undergraduate enrollment. *"Hispanic enrollment at Texas A&M reached 25 percent in fall*

2020, and again in fall 2021. Although the listing as an HSI by HACU does not certify an institution as a federally designated HSI for Title V or other federal grant purposes, Texas A&M's Interim Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity Annie McGowan said it's a major step in the right direction.



"We are delighted that our progress towards achieving Texas A&M's land-grant mission to serve students across all demographic categories is being recognized. Fulfilling our public, land-grant mission enhances our ability to deliver the marketable skills that recruiters demand," McGowan said, noting that the employers who recruit Texas A&M students have made it clear that they seek employees with the intercultural skills necessary to meet

the demands of an increasingly diverse and global economy.

"Recruiting and retaining Hispanic faculty and staff make the university not just a welcoming place for new students, but also an institution where their student experiences of seeing people with similar backgrounds to them – pursuing and thriving in the higher education – help shape their expectations for themselves and for each other," she said. "We have a saying in the Texas A&M Hispanic Network: 'Lift as we climb.' Culturally, the Hispanic community is an embodiment of Texas A&M's core values – they tend to share a strong work ethic, are family-oriented and value tradition, history, respect and integrity. These are the kind of students we want as Aggies."

One can access the entire article on the Web here: today.tamu.edu/2021/11/30/texas-am-achieves

Caroline Dance Named NCEA Standout Athlete of the Month



As reported by Tyler Pounds, TAMU Athletics Communications on 1 December 2021, Texas A&M's Caroline Dance, a member of The Fightin' Texas Aggie nationally ranked (#2) Equestrian Team, has been named the National Collegiate Equestrian Association Standout Athlete of the Month for November.

"Dance played a vital role with "AggiesCAN," which provided over 40,000 meals for the Brazos Valley. The fifth-year senior's main duties included organizing athletics department canned food collections, recruiting fellow student-athlete volunteers and serving as the liaison with the Brazos Valley Food Bank.

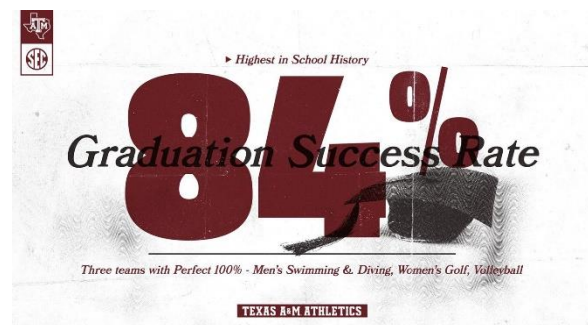
Some of her recruiting efforts involved appearing in front of media, including a segment on the KBTX Aggie Gameday Pregame Show. Dance also appeared at men's and women's home basketball games, volleyball and soccer games for can collections.

In competition, Dance posted a 3-0 mark in Flat, including two Most Outstanding Performer honors. For her efforts, she was named the NCEA Flat Rider of the Month.

Every month the NCEA recognizes student-athletes for their accomplishments in the ring, however the NCEA would like to highlight athletes on their outstanding performances outside of

the ring, including academics, philanthropy, outstanding attitude, and embodiment of an ideal teammate.” To access more about the Texas A&M equestrian team, access it on the Web here: 12thMan.com

TAMU Athletics Achieves Historic Graduation Success Rate (GSR) – CONGRATS!



As reported by Texas A&M Athletics Communications on 2 December 2021, Texas A&M Athletics posted an 84% Graduation Success Rate (GSR), the **highest in school history**, according to the latest Division I GSR data released by the NCAA.

Texas A&M Director of Athletics Ross Bjork said *"I am excited that our student-athletes continue to push the ceiling of our academic profile higher and higher, and I am proud of their dedication and leadership displayed in the classroom. Having the highest Graduation Success Rate in our history is an incredible accomplishment and I know we will continue to pursue academic success across the board. I want to thank the Center for Student-Athlete Services for their continued hard work and commitment to helping our student-athletes succeed."*

The record-setting performance was highlighted by perfect GSRs from three teams – men's swimming & diving, volleyball and women's golf. Additionally, seven teams posted GSRs of 85% or higher – equestrian, men's basketball, soccer, softball, women's basketball, women's swimming & diving and women's tennis. One can access the entire article on the Web at: <https://12thman.com/news/2021/12/2/texas-am-athletics-registers-historic-gsr.aspx>

The Aggie Impact Gala (AIG)

As reported by the Bryan Eagle staff on 3 December 2021, the Aggie Impact Gala (AIG) is a prestigious event that financially helps African American students at Texas A&M University along with honoring former Black students who have made an impact in their communities and professions. AIG supports higher education in the community through the Aggie Impact Endowment Foundation Excellence Award, which financially supports a gap in funding for deserving African American students: future, current and transfer.

One can access information about the Gala, which was held Saturday evening, 4 December, at Ford Hall of Champions, Kyle Field, at: aggieimpactgala.org

Student Senate Unanimously Passes a Resolution Condemning “All Attempts” of Staff Oversight of Student Organizations

As reported by Coby Scrudder on 2 December 2021 in The Battalion [Note: publication thereof by a TAMU student run organization under the auspices of the VP of Student Affairs] a Resolution voicing the opinions of the Student Senate about the “MGT Consulting Report” was passed unanimously. This report, commissioned by university

President M. Katherine Banks, outlined many areas in the administration of the school that could be improved, including a merger between the College of Liberal Arts, College of Science and College of Geoscience.

This resolution supported some of the recommendations — including a focus on more campus gardens, a performing arts center and a museum, as well as having the Higher Education Center and McAllen directly report to the provost — but disagreed with other recommendations.

“The Texas A&M Student Senate vigorously and unwaveringly opposes further exploration of all efforts to align student organization management practices to ensure transparency and accountability with any attempts at a staff-led approach,” the resolution reads.

An amendment was made in the meeting to specifically address Fish Camp, which the MGT report highlighted in its assessment of Student Affairs. *“Fish Camp is an example of [A&M’s history and culture negatively impacting student body diversity] — there is a lack of control over the content of the camp. The challenges of polarized politics have the potential to threaten Core Values,”* the report reads.

The Senate amendment said the body opposes any plans to make Fish Camp a faculty-run program. However, the MGT report did recognize a need for student-faculty balance in Fish Camp’s operations. *“It is important to balance student autonomy with institutional oversight, such that [A&M’s] values and traditions remain central, when helping to shape programmatic elements,”* the MGT report reads.

Regardless, the Senate amendment voiced the body’s opposition to any plans for university oversight on the organization. ***“The Texas A&M Student Senate condemns all attempts of university administration to provide institutional staff oversight to any student organizations such as Fish Camp [in accord with] the First Amendment protection of self-governance and independence from Texas A&M University’s administration and staff,”*** the amended text reads. With this amendment, the resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

One can access the entire Battalion article on the Web at:

https://www.thebatt.com/news/student-senate-passes-resolutions-voicing-stance-on-mgt-report-establishing-procedure-to-fill-vacancies/article_dceb9aea-53c0-11ec-88fc-9f7d9d8422d0.html?utm_source=thebatt.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletters%2Flists%2Fheadlines%2F%3F-dc%3D1638541802&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline

A note - We, the SRG Board had several members attend fish Camp this summer as we have reported in previous SRG Bulletins. We strongly believe in student run organizations because there is a very good reason that Texas Aggie graduates are the most sought after in America. And one reason (besides a world class education and spirit) is because they get leadership experiences while a student. But they are students. The key is balance regarding staff advisor oversight – not too much, nor little.

Bonfire was a student run organization. We believe that VPSA General Ramirez and President Banks very well understand both sides of this and will take the appropriate actions required where needed.

And To Our SRG Members!



We thank you for your very positive response to our recent Newsletter offering details about the March 2-4, 2022 SRG Reunion here in College Station. The Hilton reservations, as an example, have really poured in! We, the SRG Board of Directors, are excited about that, and we look forward to seeing you all. From talking to the SRG Class Agents, we are receiving feedback that there will be a good turnout for this one. The good bull (at a deep level) is anticipated! As a reminder, another newsletter with the specific registration forms will go out to you all in January. BEST to all of you in the holiday season!

NOTES

REMINDER - SRG March '22 Reunion Information!!

March 2-4, 2022

College Station, TX

<https://www.aggienetwork.com/events/2022/sulross.aspx>.

SRG Bulletin Sign-Up Reminder: Anyone (Ags and non Ags, SRG Ags and all other Ags too) can “opt in” and sign up by going to: <https://www.aggienetwork.com/theassociation/sulrossgroup.aspx> and simply putting in your name and email address, and then clicking on “submit.” You will then automatically receive all the SRG Bulletins.

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

Interim Provost Scott: t-scott@tamu.edu

Athletic Director Bjork: rrabun@athletics.tamu.edu

You can reach us at: SRGpresident@aggienetwork.com. The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are responsible for producing and editing these SRG Bulletins, with transparency to and advice from The Association of Former Students, under whose auspices we operate. We do so in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution’s Purposes, which is keeping our represented SRG Membership informed in a timely manner. To access information about us as the elected SRG Board of Directors, and our Constitution, please refer to our new “**SRG Tab**” (Under “**Programs**”) on The Association’s website, at: aggienetwork.com. One can access information about us, including the current 2021-2022 SRG Board of Directors, The SRG’s Constitution and By-Laws, and the SRG’s history and what we’re about.

SRG Bulletin Uniform Resource Locators (URLs)

For every SRG Bulletin topic, when required, we try our best to properly reference the material source. These are highlighted in blue at the end of the topic so that the reader can access the source for further information and clarification if desired. These are called Universal Resource Locators (URLs). The explanation for them is that they are *“the protocol (ex. HTTP, FTP), the domain name (or IP address), and additional path information (folder/file). On the Web, a URL may address a Web page file, image file, or any other file supported by the HTTP protocol.”* For clarification, they are not “live” in the Bulletin paragraphs, which means one cannot simply click on them and have the source material appear. So, you have to copy the blue highlighted URL and paste it into your browser search window to access it and read it on the Web in its entirety.