

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Forty-Six

10 November 2021

Student Government Association (SGA) Student Forum Discussing MGT Report

As reported in The Battalion By Coby Scrudder @cobyscrudder, Nov 4, 2021, the Student Government Association (SGA) held a forum wherein the MGT Report's assessments and recommendations could be discussed and forwarded for inclusion into the comments data base as President Banks asked of all interested parties. We reported a good bit about this request of the SRG in our previous SRG Bulletin 45, and we thank all of you who responded in such fine fashion!

As you know, student government and most student activities reside under the purview and leadership of the TAMU Vice President of Student Affairs (VPSA), General Joe Ramirez '79. General Ramirez has a sizable staff to provide oversight of and supervision for the multitude of responsibilities assigned – including SGA. We all agree that Fightin Texas Aggie students are among the most sought-after graduates in the world. One of the important resultant reasons of choosing TAMU is because Aggie students are afforded the opportunity to be involved in organizations where they can learn and practice leading! Fish Camp is one of those. The publication of The Battalion is another. When we had Bonfire, it was another example. So, this valuable part of non-academic student life and experience while at Texas A&M is vitally important. The key to it being so successful for both the institution and the students is balance in oversight by the VPSA's staff who are hired to do just that – not too much, not too little!

Here is one of the comments of the referenced article: *“Another recommendation many students discussed their displeasure with was Recommendation No. 2 in the Student Affairs section of the report, which would allow for more faculty oversight of student organizations. Many students voiced their concerns about the recommendation, saying it takes away any possible leadership experience from student organizations. The consensus among students, including political science sophomore Graham Wolfe, was that leadership experience can only come through if students are allowed to flourish and fail. Hernandez [a senior] described the recommendation as an “infantilization of grown adults.” Hernandez also brought up concerns of too much oversight, which she believes could lead to the administration attempting to silence protests organized by student organizations. Hernandez said this requirement could open up the possibility of funds being stripped away if an organization does not do exactly what the faculty tells them. The report suggests more oversight is necessary to give students the best leadership development experience possible. “Student organizations should be strategically designed to provide leadership development and accountability opportunities,” the report reads. “Establishing student organizations as semi-professional entities with structured guidelines and expectations allows students to understand the reality of most post-college professional settings while enjoying shared interests with other students.”*

One can draw their own conclusion from this. As reported, after the SRG Board attended fish Camp this past summer, the VPSA kindly asked for our observations. We offered some suggestions about this balanced requirement. Students do not know everything. Neither do old former students! So, when it comes to standards expected, overarching curricula, and lesson plans designed to achieve certain learning outcomes, the students get an important “say” but the VPSA and staff shoulder the responsibility to decide, direct and ensure a balanced result.

When an article, for example, appears in The Battalion, it’s OK to have an “agenda” to some degree. But if the piece is unbalanced, incomplete, not factual, or biased, then responsibility and accountability need to be exercised. If the student editor cannot do it, then the advisor better. That’s the staff’s job. We believe there is much room for improvement in this regard, and the VPSA is working on that – all in the proper balance. One can read the entire article at this site: https://www.thebatt.com/news/sga-held-student-forum-discussing-mgt-report/article_5e3eaea4-3dbc-11ec-819b-eb92c7a560ea.html

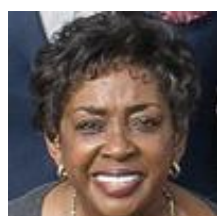
The Fightin’ Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets – Halftime Auburn Game 6 November



Every year during football season, it is customary for the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets to form their famous “Block T” on Kyle Field just after the Fightin Texas Aggie Band performance. This year, on Saturday the 6th of November, when the Fightin’ Texas

Aggies BTHO Auburn, The Corps formed the “Block T” with Governor Abbott as the guest of honor.

One can find the YouTube video of the FTAB’s performance, and the moving speech given by Fred McClure ’76 here: Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band – FULL CORPS T / Auburn 2021 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=14b7uEwKwQ).



About Fred ’76 and Harriet McClure of College Station: Fred is a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M University (1991). He’s the executive director of leadership initiatives of the Office of the Provost at A&M. He served in consecutive presidential administrations, advising President Ronald Reagan

and President George H.W. Bush. He was the former CEO of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation. While a student at Aggieland, he earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. He was the TAMU Student body president and was recipient of the Brown-Rudder Outstanding Student Award. Harriett is former deputy director of intergovernmental affairs for the USDA, and a nonprofit leader and teacher with her bachelor's degree from Texas A&M-Kingsville. To view and listen to Fred's speech, access it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rm_aY43AEp8

And, while we are on the Fightin Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets, check out this video: https://vimeo.com/642076598?fbclid=IwAR0X7Xqasy-5GTck5OGxTUhcb2Ndw29vbWoWZ3Gae5C_dGjTCIIC9TbWpjk

Coach Fisher in Appreciation of Veterans (re Veterans' Day 11 November 2021)



As reported by TexAgs on 8 November 2021, Coach Fisher concluded his weekly press conference by giving his opinion of the significance of Veterans Day. Both of coach's grandfathers were in the Army and fought in World War II. His father was also in the Army and fought in Korea.

"To me, that's as important a day as there is this year. What people have done for us to have the freedoms and the things we have in this country..."

I know what it means to this school. The people who have put their lives on the line and not come home. Some that have come home. Freedom is not free. That's why this is the greatest country in the world.

For us to remember our veterans and honor our veterans ... there's is not a greater day to me that should be celebrated throughout this world each and every year. I don't feel like we do enough for our veterans. We need to find ways to do more for them."

Meet the Aggie Leading Sandia National Laboratories

Texas A&M's greatness is found in incredible depth and breadth of "answering the calls to duty with selfless service" in all sectors – civil, private, commercial and military – a land grant legacy. The following is another superb example of the "Texas Aggie reach" in highly responsible partnerships and important contributions to State and Nation!

"Former student James Peery '90 talks about the labs' critical mission ensuring the nation's security and its growing partnership with his alma mater."

By Lesley Henton, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communication, 3 November 2021 - [TODAY.TAMU.EDU](https://today.tamu.edu).



On a recent visit to Texas A&M, (l-r) James Owen, associate lab director, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL); James Peery, director of labs, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL); Kim Budil; director, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL); Laura McGill, deputy laboratories director, SNL; Patricia Falcone, deputy director, LLNL

Emily Oswald/Texas A&M University Engineering Communications

Texas A&M University former student James S. Peery '90, director of labs at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., visited campus late last month to meet with university officials and tour facilities including Disaster City, the Global Health Research Complex, the RELLIS Campus, and the National Aerothermochemistry and Hypersonics Laboratory. Peery directs all missions at Sandia, the engineering arm of the U.S. nuclear weapons enterprise and premier science and engineering laboratories for national security and technology innovation. He was named a 2020-21 outstanding alumni by the Texas A&M College of Engineering.



Peery earned three degrees in nuclear engineering from Texas A&M: his bachelor's in 1984, master's in 1986 and a Ph.D. in 1990. Upon earning his doctorate, he joined Sandia, where he worked in radiation hydrodynamics and managed a computational physics group. In 2002, he left Sandia to lead the Advanced Simulation and Computing program at Los Alamos National Laboratory under the National Nuclear Security Administration's Stockpile Stewardship Program and subsequently, the Hydrodynamics Experiments Division. He returned to Sandia in 2007, staying for another decade until moving to Oak Ridge National Laboratory to continue working in national security. In January 2020, he was named director of labs at Sandia. *Texas A&M Today* spoke with Peery about his job, Texas A&M's long history with Sandia Labs and his time as a student in Aggieland. Here are selected Q&As of the interview:

Tell us about the mission and purpose of Sandia National Laboratories.

The national laboratories were set up to solve some of the most challenging science, engineering and technology problems that the nation has. It is a team sport to solve these multidisciplinary problems. Every one of the national labs is different in its capabilities and competencies. Sandia is the Department of Energy's only engineering laboratory, but we're backed by outstanding science. Our primary mission is to steward the nuclear weapons of the United States and our role is to ensure these weapons are secure, safe and reliable. Our motto is "Always, Never" – they will always work when the president orders them to work, and they will never work when not authorized. We do a lot of other national security work where we use those capabilities and competencies for nuclear weapons to help other agencies in the federal government solve challenging problems.

What is the relationship between Sandia and Texas A&M?

There's a long history between Sandia National Labs and Texas A&M. When I was in graduate school, Sandia recruited very heavily from Texas A&M mechanical, electric and nuclear engineering. The other national labs caught onto that and started showing up as well. Over time, Sandia and the other labs became heavily involved with Texas A&M in areas such as advanced

simulation and computing through the Predictive Science Academic Alliance Program II, which was executed by the Center for Large Scale Scientific Simulations. And we've been discussing for quite some time a more strategic relationship between the two institutions. Mainly the history has been principal investigator to principal investigator. We have also participated in reviewing each other – professors reviewing some of our programs, and some of us reviewing different departments at the university. We're trying to evolve that into a much more strategic relationship. And a lot of the activities that the university has moved into are making that much more attractive for both of us. RELLIS is getting close to the kind of work that Sandia does, more on the lower technology readiness levels than we typically work, but a lot of synergies, for example, hypersonics. Clearly there's a lot of investment in hypersonics at Texas A&M. And there's probably no institution in the country more knowledgeable in hypersonics than Sandia, so there's great synergy there. That's just one example of many shared activities.

You came to Texas A&M for your undergraduate, then your master's degree and finally your doctorate. What made you choose Texas A&M and remain with the institution for all three degrees?

I went to Strake Jesuit High School in Houston and so it's expected you're going to go to college. It's the greatest gift my parents ever gave me, was sending me there. My parents were of modest means. They said I could live at home and go to University of Houston or Rice. But I was very determined to go off to college. I had friends who were going to Texas A&M and so I checked out their offerings. My dad is a mechanical engineer and I had done a little bit of that during the summers, but I knew that's not exactly what I wanted to do. I love math and physics, and it just seemed like nuclear engineering was the right place for me. So I came to A&M and fell in love with it. I remember being in the Zachry engineering building where there's this great set of marble steps leading up to a platform and they called all the freshmen engineering students there a few days before classes began. The dean said, 'Look to your left and look to your right because those people are not going to be here when you graduate.' I took that as a challenge and worked incredibly hard to get my undergraduate degree. Then the Department of Nuclear Engineering provided me an opportunity to stay for graduate school and make me a research assistant to pay the bills. So, I didn't ever think about leaving to go to another university.

What do you think of your alma mater all these years later and with President M. Katherine Banks leading the way?

First I must say, I received a fabulous education from the Nuclear Engineering Department at Texas A&M. I was totally prepared to go to a national lab and be successful. Not only the foundational elements of the education, but the challenges that professors put in front of me and my research. I was fortunate to be on some team projects, so I knew how to work on a team. On my recent visit, I remember talking to Diane Hurtado about how we watch China and all this stuff they're able to do these days and how fast they do it. And we kind of sit back in awe. But I sit back in awe looking at what Texas A&M in College Station is doing both in the increasing the number of undergraduates in engineering, the new facilities, the RELLIS Campus, that's what is awe inspiring to me. My degrees are gaining value on the wall based on what Dr. Banks and the leadership team at Texas A&M are doing. I'm very bullish for the future of Texas A&M, one of the world's greatest universities, and for the two institutions to partner more and grow stronger together.

Is there anything you'd like to add?

I want to give a shout out to the professors who helped me get where I am today. I'm sure I'll leave someone off, and some of them are no longer with us. Dr. Ron Hart, Dr. Lee Peddicord, Dr. Fred Best, Dr. John Poston, Dr. Ted Parish and Dr. Yassin Hassan, they challenged me. It was a family and they truly cared about us students and getting us through our education. There's not a better nuclear engineering department in the country.

Access the entire article and interview here: <https://today.tamu.edu/category/science-technology/>

New Texas A&M System Center Eyed for Downtown Fort Worth

“The hub for collaboration with industry would rise alongside a new law school building.”

By Texas A&M University System Communications Staff, November 10, 2021



Artist's rendering of the campus envisioned for Downtown Fort Worth – Texas A&M System

“Fort Worth government and business leaders and Texas A&M University System officials are working together on plans to build a new downtown research campus to spur innovation and business development.

The shared vision is to create a hub for collaboration between key Fort Worth industries and top research, education and workforce training assets of the Texas A&M System. The shared goal is to spur business and job growth in one of the nation's fastest growing cities and throughout North Texas.

The Texas A&M System Research and Innovation Center would be constructed alongside a new Education Alliance Building, which would host conferences and house professional, technical and university courses offered by the Texas A&M School of Law, Tarleton State University, Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M Health Science Center and other alliance members.

The innovation center and new education building would form the nucleus of a new urban campus along with a new, state-of-the-art Law School at 1515 Commerce Street. The buildings would be constructed in phases beginning with the Research and Innovation Center. To download an artist's renderings of the proposed buildings, please go to <https://www.tamus.edu/ft-worth/>

“The A&M System is making a Texas-sized commitment to Fort Worth,” Chancellor John Sharp said. “Welcome to Aggeland North.”

The System owns four blocks in the area and the City of Fort Worth has nearby property that could become available. The area is next to two major attractions, the Convention Center and Water Gardens. It is a short walk from two public transportation stations and close to two interstate highways, providing easy access to the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area and surrounding region. The City is planning a convention center expansion, more hotel rooms and other nearby improvements.

A memorandum outlining the aspirations for the Texas A&M System's Urban Campus in Fort Worth was signed last week by representatives of the A&M System, the city, Tarrant County and Fort Worth Now, a privately funded group formed to help businesses and economic growth in aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Civic leaders are looking for help from a top research university to strengthen the area's industrial and employment base. Results from the 2020 Census show Fort Worth has a

population of nearly one million residents and is growing faster than any major U.S. city. However nearly half of the 1.2 million adults in Tarrant County (age 25 and older) lack a college degree. One in four county households has an annual income below \$30,000.

The A&M Research and Innovation Center will house a wide range of initiatives involving the System's network of state agencies. Discussions so far include programs in emergency response communication, medical technologies, advanced manufacturing, nutrition, biotechnology, medical laboratory science and nursing.

Six notable Fort Worth employers — Alcon, AT&T, Bell, Elbit Systems of America, Lockheed Martin, and Philips — are interested in collaborating in particular research areas. An incubator for business startups might relocate to the A&M center.

The System agencies involved would be Texas Division of Emergency Management, the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

A new Law School would serve as the front door and academic anchor of the urban campus.

The current law school is housed in the former Southwestern Bell call switching facility that was converted for office use. The school also uses leased space in a nearby building. The plan envisions renovating or rebuilding the law school to accommodate growth and provide a state-of-the art educational environment.

Since the A&M System acquired the law school eight years ago, it has experienced the largest jump to its reputational score of any law school in the United States. It recently passed its Texas counterparts at Baylor University and the University of Houston in the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings.

Another partner would be Tarleton State University, a member of the A&M System that already has a Fort Worth campus along the Chisholm Trail Parkway and leased space downtown at Baylor All Saints Medical Center for nursing and other medical-related fields. Tarleton would move its health-related offerings to the new urban campus so students are close to their clinical assignments at nearby hospitals, clinics and labs.

The memorandum signed last week is a non-binding statement of the parties' intentions. It allows discussions and planning to become more detailed in the coming months. Construction of the buildings would require a series of approvals from the Board of Regents, although the law building has been in the Board's capital improvement plan for several years. Key parts of the plans also will need approval from the Fort Worth City."

Article access is at: [New Texas A&M System Center Eyed For Downtown Fort Worth - Texas A&M Today \(tamuedu\)](https://www.tamuedu.edu/news/2021/11/03/new-texas-am-system-center-eyed-for-downtown-fort-worth)

United Airlines Announced That Flights to Easterwood Halting After 3 January 2022

As reported by KAGS, College Station on 3 November 2021 and several other news outlets, United Airlines is ending flight services to Easterwood Airport after Jan. 3, 2022. Texas A&M University also confirmed it in a press release.

The airline's service to the Bryan College Station area dates back to the 1980s with current flights leaving to Houston daily. Without United, Easterwood Airport would be left with three American Airlines flights to the Dallas-Fort Worth area



John W. Clanton, President of the Easterwood Airport Management, said he learned of United's decision on a phone call with the company. Caught off guard by in early discussions with the airline about a regular flight to Denver just four weeks ago and that the airport had seen a significant increase in flight passengers in the last few months.

"We're doing everything we can to get them to change their mind," Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp said in a statement Wednesday, adding that the results of United leaving the airport would be *"devastating."*

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.