

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Thirty

7 April 2021

Dr. Banks Confirmed by Regents



The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents on Wednesday confirmed M. Katherine Banks as the 26th President of Texas A&M University.

Dr. Banks, currently Vice Chancellor of Engineering and National Laboratories and Dean of the Texas A&M College of Engineering, assumes her duties June 1.

President Banks also will carry the title Vice Chancellor of National Laboratories and National Security Strategic Initiatives because

of her continued involvement with Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Bush Combat Development Complex at the RELLIS Campus.

Dr. Banks, who has led engineering for the past decade, was selected after a national search led by Elaine Mendoza and Tim Leach, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Regents, and a 15-member search committee.

“After a robust national search, which drew top-notch, competitive candidates, our Board today unanimously confirmed Dr. Katherine Banks as the next President of Texas A&M University,” Chairman Mendoza said. “With her decade of accomplishments evident right here on campus, Dr. Banks will be ready and able to move forward from day one. Texas A&M is a great university and under her leadership, we are expecting it to be even greater; we are excited to see this next chapter unfold.”

“We have all worked with Dr. Banks for many years and we know what she has done to transform our engineering college, which this week the U.S. News & World Report ranked as the best in Texas,” said Chancellor John Sharp. “Dr. Banks is going to do for the university what she has already done for engineering. She is going to be a great president.”

“I am truly honored that the Board of Regents has selected me to be the next president of this great university,” said Dr. Banks. “Crucial listening sessions will begin soon with key stakeholders across campus and beyond to gather perspectives concerning the issues, challenges, and opportunities that we face today. I look forward to working together as we take Texas A&M University to new levels of preeminence.”

According to the Bryan Eagle, 31 March 2021, in an interview, Dr. Banks said she is humbled and honored to be selected for the position as President. “This University is amazing. It is unique. Texas A&M is a special place. The Core values, the respect of tradition, is truly the foundation of this great institution. And building upon that foundation to reach preeminence – in my opinion – there’s no other university in the country that can have a larger impact on the world today that Texas A&M.”

Laylan Copeland, TAMUS Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications, said that contract details were being worked out but that the term duration will be five years. Copeland said that while Banks was offered the same financial package as former President Young, due to “tough economic times” she negotiated to be paid less. Chancellor sharp said he respected her decision, and that overall, her financial package is \$350,000 less.

As she moves into her new position, she said her three main focus areas for the near future include *“1. Launching a “listening tour” to address concerns of units across campus; 2. Ensuring a safe environment in the fall as students return to in-person classes, and 3. Developing a vision for preeminence in which dreams for the University community are outlined in a comprehensive document.”*

Aggie Campus Muster 2021 will be a “Hybrid” Event



TAMU’s Campus Muster ceremony on April the 21st will be a “hybrid” format this year as reported by the Bryan Eagle on 5 April. Some parts of the memorial will be “virtual,” and others will be “in-person.” Only a limited number of family, guests and a group from the Aggie Class of ’71 will be hosted at Reed. Kyle Field will be open to the public to gather and watch a livestream of the ceremony. Muster speaker will be General USAF (Ret.) T. Mike Moseley ’71 – a fighter pilot. He was the Air Component Commander for Desert Storm. and later the 18th Chief of Staff, USAF.

Chancellor’s Announcement



Graduate programs at the Texas A&M University College of Engineering celebrate quite a milestone today in their ascent among the nation’s elite universities.

The latest U.S. News & World Report ranked the Engineering College ahead of all other Texas engineering colleges, including its vaunted counterpart down the road in Austin.

I remember the first day a decade ago that Engineering Vice Chancellor Kathy Banks got here. She had a plan to take her college to the absolute highest level. Now that it’s number one in Texas, I suspect she won’t rest until it is number one in the U.S.

Meanwhile, the Texas A&M School of Law leapt seven more spots in the 2022 rankings and passed its Texas counterparts at Baylor University and the University of Houston.

Texas A&M Law has experienced the largest jump to its reputational score of any law school in the United States since The Texas A&M System acquired it eight years ago.

I applaud the faculty and leadership in engineering, law, business and the Bush School of public affairs for their respective climbs in these latest rankings. They reflect what we see across campus in Bryan-College Station: Our graduate schools are trending in the right direction.

Please follow this link if you would like to read more about the latest rankings:

<https://today.tamu.edu/2021/03/30/texas-am-earns-high-marks-in-graduate-school-rankings/>

TAMU Provost Announces the “New Normal” Plan

Reported by KBTX on 23 March 2021 by Adrienne DeMoss, interim Provost Mark Weichold announced the University is planning to offer near normal coursework for the fall semester and that students should plan to attend courses in person.

“While the fall semester is five months away, we will be monitoring conditions carefully. If changes are needed, we are prepared to adjust appropriately. We will continue to inform you as close to real-time as possible so that you are aware of the direction the university is taking,” said a release from the university.

The anticipated dates for fall 2021 pre-registration are as follows:

Fall schedule released to the public: April 27

Pre-registration: April 29-May 12

Open registration: May 13-May 25 at 5 p.m.

Weichold said summer courses will not be affected by this announcement, and pre-registration will proceed as scheduled April 1-16. “While this news is welcome for many, I know that some of you may have questions,” said the release. “The leadership team is working on the details for faculty, staff, and students, and we will release guidance in the coming days and weeks to help you prepare for the fall semester.”

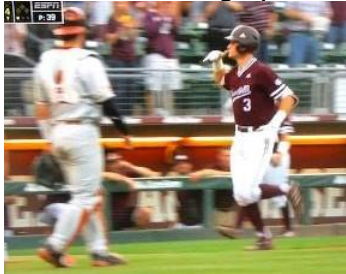
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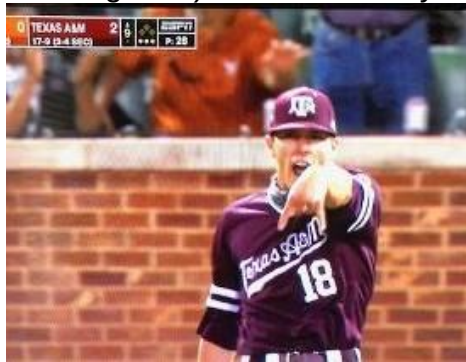
On Tuesday, 30 March, it was sweet at Blue Bell Park when the sips showed up ranked #4 to take on the Fightin Texas Aggie baseball team. The 12th Man was out In Force, and the Ags did not disappoint – shutting out the pitiful horns 2-0 thanks to some great pitching and two homers.



Besides the Aggie bleachers now in right field being packed, here also is the 12th Man in their “ball seven” chant to the sip pitcher. Also, young Ag fish pitcher, Nathan Dettmer, was outstanding spinning his shutout innings.



The Ags scored twice on home runs by Logan Britt (note the “horns down” sign rounding third), and also Mikey Hoehner’s boomer.



Reliever Chandler Jozwiak closed the sips out and then signaled their dugout that he had done just that! Then Ag first baseman, Will Frizzell, flipped the sips the baseball.

Notes:

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: engineeringyed@tamu.edu

Interim President Junkins: junkins@tamu.edu

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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 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, we shall soon have an “SRG Tab” on The Association’s website at: [aggienetwork.com](https://www.aggienetwork.com) so you can access information about us.