

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Fifty-Two



1 February 2022

2022 New Year SRG Board of Directors' Resolutions, Supporting:

- A plan to grow and sustain the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets to three thousand
- The TAMU Mission Statement being updated so other subordinate mission statements can consistently follow
- “Messaging” by Aggie “messengers,” enabled by the understanding of what the TAMU President’s approved “brands” and their “messages” are, with unity of purpose and effort with no more “county options”
- Decisions, such as patches on Aggie athletic uniforms, which are not considered by all Aggie stakeholders, in context with Texas Aggie traditions and values, start to be approved by the TAMU leadership
- Continued the ongoing review, execution and improvement of new student integration and assimilation into TAMU – avoiding “not too much nor too little” oversight of student run organizations
- Continued recruitment and enrollment of marginalized ethnic cohorts of students’ into TAMU – for them to all be a part of something transcendent - and not separate.
- Continued the SRG Board’s integration into the committees which are commissioned by President Banks to work the established “Path Forward” issues
- The SRG 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 The Association, TAMU and our membership

This is What the Reed Arena 12th Man Standard should Be for Every Game
(“Rock Reed,” kiantucks, 19 January)



A new Reed Arena attendance record – Over 14,000! Very good bull!

Texas A&M Moves Higher in National Research and Development Ranking



*“The National Science Foundation (NSF) just singled out Texas A&M University as one of the nation’s best in research and development, rocketing **from 22nd to 14th** in the national rankings.*

Its annual survey of higher education institutions shows an R&D spending jump of almost 19 percent at Texas A&M in fiscal 2020 compared with an average increase nationally of 3.3 percent.

The \$1.13 billion total for Texas A&M includes spending at the flagship in College Station and Galveston, Texas A&M University System agencies and Texas A&M Health.

Texas A&M is the highest ranked institution in Texas and ahead of venerable research universities such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

NSF considers total R&D expenditures as a sign of an institution’s contribution to the advancement of U.S. research. Find out more about how we compare with other universities here: <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf22311>

In its report, the federal agency singles out a contract between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Texas A&M Health Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing (CIADM) that helped scale-up manufacturing capacity for rapid production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates.

I’m proud of the trust the federal government shows in Texas A&M to oversee such vital work.

I’m also proud of the depth and breadth of our R&D capabilities. Every day, Texas A&M System researchers strive to advance science and tackle the world’s toughest problems



Chancellor
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

John Sharp '72
Chancellor

From Chancellor Sharp’s news on 7 January 2022, one can read more about this achievement at: https://today.tamu.edu/2022/01/10/texas-am-ranks-14th-in-total-u-s-research-and-development-expenditures-outpaces-other-texas-universities/?utm_source=TAMUSocial&utm_medium=TAMUSocial&utm_campaign=TAMUSocial&utm_id=TAMUSocial

Selection of the Vice President for Faculty Affairs – Dr. N. K. Anand

M. KATHERINE BANKS
PRESIDENT
January 21, 2022



To: The Texas A&M University Community:

In my response to the MGT report recommendations, I announced the creation of a Vice President for Faculty Affairs position with a selection committee of Interim Provost Tim Scott, Vice Presidents Greg Hartman and Jack Baldauf, Faculty Senate Speaker Dale Rice and me. Over the last few weeks, five applications were submitted from candidates interested in this new role. Three candidates were interviewed by the selection committee.



I am pleased to announce that the committee unanimously selected Professor N.K. Anand as the inaugural Vice President for Faculty Affairs, effective Feb 1. Dr. Anand has served Texas A&M since 1985, when he joined as an assistant professor in mechanical engineering. Over the past 36 years, Dr.

Anand has consistently risen up through the leadership ranks. He is a Regents Professor and holder of the James J. Cain '51 Professor III Endowed Chair and has served as graduate program director, associate and interim department head, as well as assistant and associate dean for graduate programs, associate dean for research, acting vice chancellor, and interim dean and acting director for the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station. Dr. Anand's experience with faculty affairs, including faculty hiring and retention, tenure and promotion, appointment of endowed faculty positions, budget, built environment, strategic planning and fundraising, gives him tremendous insight into all areas impacting our faculty members.

From Dr. Anand's application letter: "I will pursue and promote excellence in creation, dissemination, and instruction of new knowledge, through faculty advocacy, recruiting, retention, development, shared governance, and by being effective and efficient. I will pursue my vision with emphasis on integrity, quality, transparency, fairness, accountability, and a strong commitment to the citizenry of the state of Texas and to the principles of the land grant mission."

Dr. Anand is well known throughout the university and held in high esteem as a fair, diplomatic and trustworthy leader. He is the ideal candidate to serve in this important position. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Anand upon his selection to serve in this new role.

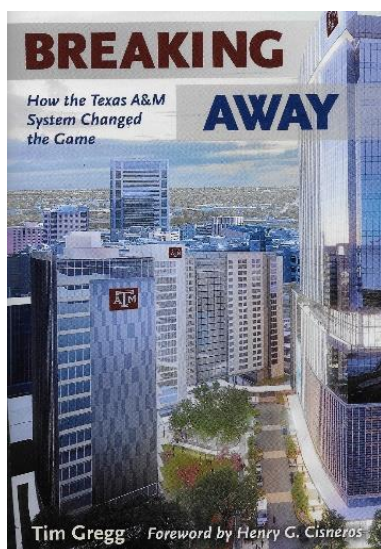
M. Katherine Banks

The reference for the President's letter can be accessed here:

<https://president.tamu.edu/messages/a-message-from-president-banks-jan-21-2022.html>

Breaking Away and the Land Grant Intent, Credo and Missions

The book Breaking Away by Tim Gregg (copywrite, The Texas A&M System, Texas A&M University Press, 2022) has a FORWARD by Henry Cisneros '68, entitled "The Morrill Act and the Texas A&M System." We believe these five pages are the best explanation, clear and understandable, about what the Morrill Act created regarding "the greater good" and how AMC and then TAMU and the TAMU System still seriously "connect" to it and thus selflessly serve the people of Texas and answer the call to that duty! This is a handy reference when we hear the Land Grant term used often when it's out of context. Here are some excerpts from the "FORWARD" for your consideration and cogitation.



"Senator Morrill (Vermont) understood that when the [civil] war ended, then the nation would have to rebuild. He imagined ways to bind the wounds in the embattled states, to put the damaged nation back on a trajectory of expansion to the West and re-commence commercial transactions with the newly industrializing economies of Europe. He knew that would require bringing literacy to an expanding population. It would require building roads and dams to open the West, It would necessitate agricultural services and animal husbandry to feed the masses, and it would demand acceleration of scientific discoveries and engineering inventions.

"....In July of 1862, the Morrill Act authorized the creations of "land grant colleges" in the states, so named because the legislation awarded federal land to the states that agreed to establish public colleges dedicated to instruction and research in the practical skills needed to build the nation.....[so]...the states

would establish colleges to teach food production, road building, power generation, waterway navigation, animal science, mechanics, mining, human nutrition, military instruction, land management and public safety.

"Few Legislative expressions of the nation will have succeeded more thoroughly than that of the Morrill Act. Its legacy is irreversible progress and undeniable enhancements of the US [and certainly Texas with the TAMU Chancellery and System in the lead} quality of life.

"....A [the] leader in this honor role of achievement is Texas A&M University, originally named The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in 1876....and leads me [Cisneros] to the conclusion that the Texas A&M System has risen to the pinnacle of the land grant institutions in the United States [and by the way is also one of five federally established "senior military universities" under the Land Grant mission set and credo].

"....This robust internal competence [with the culture, ethic and spirit of selfless service and duty} is the result of 145 years of designing, building, improving and expanding. Texas A&M has been there every step of the way. The answer to these questions depends in large part on whether the institution's leadership understands the inevitability of change, possess the

foresight to distinguish the trendy from the essential, and attracts people who are excited to work at the cutting edge.

“....[So]...Can it [TAMU and the TAMU System] adjust to economic cycles, to obsolescence of some industry sectors, and to the advent of completely new specializations? Can it adapt its fundamental mission as social mores change, demography progresses, and teaching methods evolve?”

Cisneros' conclusion is that, despite this challenge to the flagship University and the TAMU System, they are both very much up to the task in all the measures of merit starting with the (very crux here) understanding of the mission of the land grant intent and credo. Those are to answer the call to duty of the State of Texas, and to serve Texans! Cisneros concludes that the University and System leadership are currently doing that exceedingly well, and his attending Texas A&M was EXACTLY the place to learn about this and how important it is. We recommend that you read the book, and you can order it at the Texas A&M University press @ [Home - Texas A&M University Press \(tamupress.com\)](http://Home-TexasA&MUniversityPress.tamupress.com).

Aggies Hire Offensive Line (OL) Coach Addazio



On 24 January 2022, according to Executive Editor and part Owner of TexAgs.com, Billy Liucci, Coach Steve Addazio has been officially hired as the Texas Aggie football offensive line (OL) coach. *“If you look at Steve Addazio's history as a coach, he was so good as an offensive line coach that he got a head coaching job in the ACC at Boston College. At that time, he was recognized as the top offensive line coach in the country. Unless you subscribe to the theory that these guys forget how to coach, he will be an excellent offensive line coach for Jimbo Fisher & Co.”* According to many sports news outlets, Coach Addazio also is an outstanding recruiter!

We have previously reported the recent hiring of the new defensive coordinator D.J. Durkin, coming to Aggieland from ole miss. Additionally, current Aggie Coach Santucci has been promoted and will serve as co-defensive coordinator. He enjoys a great reputation as an “up and comer” with a bright future. So does Coach Robinson who has received his promotion to assistant head coach and run game coordinator. Congrats to all – very good bull!

Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) Allows Cadets To Pursue Academic And Professional Goals

In the Spring Semester Corps of Cadets Update, Robin Nelson '22 reports that a unique scholarship opportunity for the Corps of Cadets is the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program, or TASSP for short. Created in 2009 by the 81st Texas Legislature, this program provides students with a huge incentive to join one of our nation's service branches. Currently, over 250 cadets at Texas A&M receive this scholarship.

“The TASSP scholarship is awarded based on academic and personal achievement. Any resident of Texas that has been accepted into or is currently attending a Texas university is eligible to receive this scholarship. A commitment to serve in the United States military is required to earn and continue receiving this scholarship, which is renewable for up to four years.



“You must be nominated by the Texas Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, a state senator, or a state representative. Students can be a member of any class year, and do not need to be a ROTC scholarship recipient to apply. If recipients choose not to serve upon graduation, the scholarship is then converted to a loan that will need to be repaid.

“The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program is for college students who are looking to join the military after graduation. It is fully funded by the state of Texas, and you can receive up to \$10,000 a year depending on the annual state budget,” Kyle Nelson, a sophomore recipient of the TASSP scholarship, said.

*In addition to providing students with up to **\$10,000 per year in funds**, this scholarship can also be stacked onto a student’s existing ROTC scholarships.”*

The TASSP scholarship is only one of the scholarship opportunities that is available to those that are considering military service. Learn more about the TASSP and its requirements by visiting the university’s website [here](https://www.tamuedu/tassp). [Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program Allows Cadets To Pursue Academic And Professional Goals \(tamuedu\)](https://www.tamuedu/tassp)

There are “Three Sides to Every Story!”

Following here are three recent opinion pieces from [The Battalion](#). For context and balance, we thought it appropriate to provide a few SRG Board perspectives.

Last year, Texas A&M University needed a new president; The TAMUS Chancellor initiated a search for candidates from which to choose a nominee; The search was assisted by a reputable search firm; Chancellor Sharp chose Dr. Banks as his nominee for presentation to the Board of TAMUS Regents IAW Texas law; The Regents confirmed Dr. Banks as the TAMU President under their authority IAW Texas law; As any competent leader would do, President Banks reviewed her assigned responsibilities, guidance and mission tasks so that she could proceed with the execution of her call to duty; President Banks announced “listening sessions” for all stakeholders and invited all to meet with her and discuss their opinions and perspectives; President Banks also asked the chancellor hire a top education consulting firm to conduct a review of the university’s organization and practices, and to provide her their findings and recommendations for consideration; MGT Corporation did, in fact, conduct the review, and when completed, President Banks transparently provided the report to all stakeholders, soliciting all to provide comments on it for her enlightenment (all of which she read); President Banks then conferred with her subordinate senior

leadership and then issued a transparently shared report on her decisions about each of the MGT recommendations in three categories – “implement, do not implement, and further work required;” Committees were then formed, chaired by TAMU senior direct report leaders to address those issues which need more work; President Banks then solicited volunteers from all stakeholders to volunteer to join the committees to assist, work and participate in the process; That process is now ongoing (and we are proud to report that we have five SRG Board members who applied and have been accepted into the key committee structure to participate).

We believe that one of the “important sides of this story” is the description of a competent, purposeful, experienced, responsible and mission oriented, transparent, knowledgeable, informed, inclusive and decisive leader - selflessly at work.

The Battalion Opinion Piece, “Consolidating Colleges Will Yield Disaster”

Caleb Powell (@calebpowell23) on 25 January 2022 wrote this piece in The Battalion. Here are some excerpts:



“What do a guy who studies rocks, a dude who writes novels and a mad scientist who mixes chemicals have in common? If you quizzically said, “nothing,” then you win bragging rights. (I’m a broke college student with nothing to give you). For those who are confused, welcome to the new world of more than 14,000 Aggies. On Dec. 14, 2021, Texas A&M President M. Katherine Banks announced the colleges of Geosciences, Liberal Arts and Science would be consolidated into a new College of Arts and Science based on the report written by MGT Consulting of America.

“Banks’ decision is puzzling for a few reasons. First, it is based on a recommendation from a consulting company currently under criminal investigation — ironically for mismanagement of school funds — in Colorado, but let’s give Banks the benefit of the doubt since this development is relatively recent. What’s worse is that Banks’ attempt to grow our arts and sciences programs will ultimately hinder their growth. All we need to do is look at A&M’s history, other universities’ successes and our fellow Aggies’ concerns.

“Consider first that A&M has had a College of Arts and Science in the past. According to an old newspaper from, yours truly, The Battalion on July 15, 1965, the university split its old College of Arts and Science into what we now know as Liberal Arts and Science. The College of Geosciences opened in October of the same year. This reorganization was ordered to “strengthen offerings in both.” One can access the entire article here:

https://www.thebatt.com/opinion/opinion-consolidating-colleges-will-yield-disaster/article_75f40a3a-7e3a-11ec-aa96-fbfac0cc278d.html

The Battalion: Opinion Piece Regarding Student Housing on Campus

In this piece by Assistant Opinion Editor, The Battalion, Nathan Varnell (nathanvarnell@newncv) on 20 January 2022, Nathan Varnell says that “*A&M housing is subpar, its golf course is the solution.*”

“The Golf Club at Texas A&M is a typical 18-hole course, featuring 6,749 yards of golf from the tees and 171 total acres of land. A rolling plain welcoming students and guests alike to the university, the course occupies nearly a quarter of the main campus land and is approximately half of the total sweeping greenery surrounding New Main.”

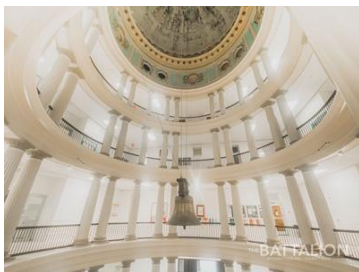


“Development on this land is obviously not a foreign concept to A&M’s Board of Regents in recent years. The course itself, originally built in 1950, was renovated in 2013, the same year Hullabaloo Hall was completed. Yet, for every year that countless new capital projects are approved by the Regents, such as Aggie Park or the new Rec Center just yards from the course itself, another year goes by without more university-operated student housing on campus.”

One can access the entire opinion piece on the web at:

https://www.thebatt.com/opinion/opinion-a-m-s-housing-is-subpar-its-golf-course-is-the-solution/article_96e7903a-799f-11ec-a9e3-2f678edb5321.html

The Battalion Opinion Piece: All Current Departments in Academic Building to be Relocated by Summer



Michaela Rush @Michaela4Batt, on 24 January 2022, wrote a piece in The Battalion entitled “No way home: All current departments in Academic Building to be relocated by summer.”

“As the deadline for the merger of the College of Arts and Sciences draws closer, the interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts announced to faculty, via email, the departure of nearly all departments currently within the Academic Building, with no stated site for relocation. In the email obtained by The Battalion, interim Dean Steven Oberhelman outlined three major changes: the new School of Architecture will move into the Coke Building, the new School of Visual and Performing Arts will move into Langford-A and the Academic Building will be vacated over the summer.”

“Affected will be the departments of Hispanic Studies, International Studies and Sociology, as well as the units housed in the building (Race and Ethnic Studies Institute, Social Sciences Consortium, Census Data Center),” the email reads. “We will, it appears, also lose the classrooms in the building.”

"In total, all of the departments and institutes housed within the Academic Building will be moving, with the goal to prepare the building to be the hub for the new College of Arts and Sciences. Although, with the most current information, sociology and Hispanic studies will remain within the college, while International Studies will have some programs remain within the college while others relocate to the Bush School of Government and Public Service.

"Sociology Ph.D. student Jalia Joseph said this announcement is concerning, both in their role as a student and instructor within the department, and has made them feel as though their academic pursuits are being ranked as less important.

"Honestly, it's really frustrating," Joseph said. "The College of Liberal Arts already gets the short end of the stick on everything. The university makes it very clear that we're not as important as the College of Engineering or other [colleges]. It's very, very blatant that they don't care."

Well, we assume that the signs posted inside the Academic Building windows (against University rules and guidance that they must not be there) will finally be removed. One can read the entire article on the Web here: [No way home: All current departments in Academic Building to be relocated by summer | News | thebatt.com](https://www.thebatt.com/news/2022/03/22/no-way-home-all-current-departments-in-academic-building-to-be-relocated-by-summer/)

NOTES

REMINDER - SRG March '22 Reunion Information!!

March 2-4, 2022, College Station, TX – Registration is now open!!

<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.