

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin One

July 2020

To our SRG membership,

Most (if not all) of you well know that there has been a lot going on at Aggieland in the month of June. We emailed a copy of our letter to the Texas A&M President after the vandalism of Sully's statue and the protest that followed. This enabled you to be informed in a timely way as opposed to a paper newsletter that is not so timely. We believe we are at a juncture that we need to do the same with this email Bulletin so as to keep you informed again, and possibly lend your support and share it as you see fit.

We have received a ton of your phone calls and emails about, "What is going on and who is doing what about what?" So, our SRG President asked me to send this bulletin.

If you wish to comment to those who are the campus leaders, below are the addresses for you to voice your opinions:

Michael Young (President, TAMU: PresidentYoung@tamu.edu)
1246 TAMU
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-1246

John Sharp (Chancellor, TAMU System: chancellor@tamus.edu)
Moore/Connally Building, 7th Floor
301 Tarrow
College Station, Texas 77840-7896

Thank you and gig 'em,
Joe Ashy '62
SRG 1st VP

Attack on the Sully Statue and Some Turbulent Days in Aggieland

On May 25, George Floyd, a black man, was murdered in Minneapolis while being taken into custody by a city policeman, Derek Chauvin, while his three colleagues, Thomas Lane, Alex Kueng and Tou Thao, looked on and did not stop him from committing this horrific and despicable act. While Chauvin has been charged with second-degree murder, and his three colleagues with "aiding and abetting," in the aftermath of this very sad episode, demonstrations erupted nationwide in many cities which quickly escalated into demonstrations and then illegal looting and riots – causing destruction of property, injury and death – accountable local and state elected leaders either did not, or could not, enforce the law in many cities, where "Antifa," a political activist and a "direct action" movement (comprised of autonomous groups affiliated by

the militant radical left “in opposition to fascism”) contributed to anarchy and out-of-control, dangerous situations – which spread throughout the US for many days following.

On June 3, Change.org appeared on social media with a petition against the TAMU leadership regarding the Ross Statue. It claimed that Aggies Respect initiated it and stated:

“The Aggie community needs to be more inclusive. The statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, commonly known as Sully, is placed in the Academic Plaza. While Sully made strong contributions to Texas A&M, he served as a Confederate General, saw Blacks as inferior, did not support integration, and was against woman's suffrage. It's long overdue for the statue to be removed. This is the way that we as Aggies can contribute to changing the cultural landscape of our university. It was pointed out that t.u. had removed statues of four confederate generals back in 2017, with their president saying that such monuments have become "symbols of modern white supremacy and neo-Nazism". Like many others, the statue was erected during the period of Jim Crow Laws and segregation and represents the subjugation of African Americans. This applies today for white supremacists who use them to symbolize hatred and bigotry. Statues represent history, the good and the bad, but the purpose of a statue is to glorify an individual. Texas A&M should not glorify a man who did not support integration, women's suffrage, and was a confederate general. A man who did not following the Aggie core value of respect towards all people. Ross symbolizes a period of time at Texas A&M when Black students would not be allowed to walk on our campus. It is time to take this statue down and show our Black community and the world that Texas A&M is ready to move on from the past and look towards a more inclusive future. In addition to signing this petition, email the following: Michael Young (President, PresidentYoung@tam.u.edu), Daniel Pugh (VP for Student Affairs, vpsa@tam.u.edu), and John Sharp (Chancellor, chancellor@tam.u.edu) and voice your support.”

Texas Aggies initiated a counter petition and the vote fight was on! The following is a recap of events following as they unfolded:



Wednesday, June 10, (early morning) – the Sully Statue was vandalized.

Wednesday, June 10 – the Sul Ross Group president directed that the Board prepare a position letter to the TAMU President and SRG Members.

Thursday, June 11, (evening) – TAMU athletes, coaches and other supporters conducted a Unity March on campus. They wanted to let people know that black lives matter and show support for the movement. They met at the 12th Man statue and made their way across campus.

Friday, June 12, (morning) – the Sul Ross Group Board delivered their letter to addressees, membership and Class Agents. You can read the letter at tx.ag/SRGBoardLetter.



Saturday, June 13, (afternoon) – a protest was held on campus in Academic Plaza, called, "Bye, Bye, Sully Ross," sponsored by Young Democratic Socialists of America and other associated groups. Information was posted on Twitter using the hashtag #ByeByeSullyRoss. We had some SRG members attend and thus we accurately know what happened. It was about half and half on both sides (about 300 each). There was “back-and-forth” from side to side with chants from the protesters and Aggie yells and songs from the other. It

was peaceful overall. We had received indications that there was some instigation from the outside, but there was no indication of outside persons at the event. The BCS TV stations reported on it in the evening segments, and the quality of reporting was not great.

Sunday, June 14 – a letter to the editor by Dr. John Adams '73 appeared in *The Eagle*. Read the letter here: https://www.theeagle.com/opinion/columnists/sul-ross-promoted-education-and-rights-for-african-americans/article_9abf6050-ac75-11ea-a108-e31b2ef460fa.html

Monday, June 15 – President Young announces his ten steps. Read more: [tx.ag/June15Note](https://www.tx.ag/June15Note).

It is an understatement to say there were a lot of “moving parts” and things happening between June 10 and 14 as the foregoing indicates! Our initial strategy as the SRG Board was to follow the administration’s lead so as to avoid getting out in front of our headlight beam. But on Wednesday, June 10, it became pretty clear to our president, Tom Reid '61, that we may not get much clarity, and therefore it was time to draft a stance about the Sully statue issue. There was also a ton of social media commentary ongoing that was concerning, much of it untruthful and getting off the tracks. We produced a draft letter to President Young (with info copies to the Regents, the Chancellor, Porter Garner who was in the loop, plus all of you as SRG members) and quickly coordinated it with our Board members who unanimously agreed. It was hand carried to the addressees the next morning and sent to our members via email. We want you to know that we appreciated hearing from the multitude of you who sent us your comments! Thank you for your support! We also want to thank Bee and Terry Gossett '72, along with John Adams '73, for their incredible assistance!

To be fair, we did get a smidge of (indirect) feedback from Mike Young via a response he sent to one of our SRG members who had written him and who then shared the response with us. Here is what he said:

June 9, 2020

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns regarding the Sul Ross statue. I always appreciate hearing from former students who care deeply about our university.

Recently, many people have written me about the Sul Ross statue. I'm hearing many points of view. Some see the statue as honoring an historical figure while others see it as an overt symbol of racism. There are some who believe the statue should not reside on campus for everyone to see, but rather be placed in a library or museum for archival purposes, and others who want it to remain with a plaque to offer greater context for his role as President of this university. Yet others wish for more representation of people of color on our campus.

As we approach the fall semester, this issue will continue to be a topic of conversation for current and former students. As we discuss matters such as these, we will need to draw on a wide variety of diverse viewpoints and have a balanced discussion involving our current and former students of the historical merits of having statues on campus. From what you write, I can tell that you are a thoughtful and engaged former student, with a passion for equity, diversity, and inclusion.

At Texas A&M, we talk a lot about our core values. While those values are enduring, it is the responsibility of each generation to engage with those ideals and redefine what they mean for us personally and for our university community. It is my hope – and I believe it is well-founded – that whatever our personal opinions may be, we can continue to have productive dialogues that lead to lasting change.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to get involved with current and former student leaders. By sharing your ideas and concerns, you can add your voice to the ongoing conversation about the type of university you hope Texas A&M can become.

I very much appreciate your sharing your concerns with me. I know we both want what is best for the university and its students. I hope you and your loved ones are well.

Sincerely, Mike Young

One aspect of this episode was the seemingly one-sided imbalance in the narrative, not only in reporting but very much in the social media commentary. There was a ton of it, and we had people following it so that we could be attuned to it! It started with the "BLM" (painted on Sully's statue) movement. We believe in ALM (All Lives Matter), and when one digs down deep into what BLM's doctrine is, it begs a lot of questions about what we, as Aggies, believe in and about our great university, and are we saying what we mean, and meaning (and doing) what we say – particularly amongst our young students? What we were seeing, and hearing, although anecdotal, was nevertheless concerning. An example did appear as a published letter to the editor in the Battalion, proposing that, "hate is the 7th Texas Aggie Core Value." Read the article here: http://www.thebatt.com/news/exposing-hate-with-a-hashtag/article_7d7e21f0-ac3b-11ea-828a-bb7be5749b95.html

We do not know how deep and wide this is as discussed here anecdotally, but we plan to dig into it after this semester starts and report back to you with some conclusions. And, the President has formed a Task force on racism.

As we do this, we want to emphasize our commitment on the Board to truth and facts, and a “stately” (read polite) approach as elders. That said, having observed all of this and as “elder” great-grandparents, we wonder if our students, who receive a lot of welcoming induction and coaching on who we are, what we are about and what makes us great, understand what it is that graduates take away from TAMU, besides an education, that enables a happy, fulfilling and successful life of service! For that to happen and be preserved, then our large and diverse student body needs to not only well understand it but integrate and assimilate into it as “we are the Aggies, the Aggies are we!” So – lots of questions here that we intend to get at.

About the issue of systemic racism, we recognize the precious American right to opinions and expression thereof! However, some facts on which to base them are most helpful to the resultant dialogue. Balance has been missing a goodly amount in this episode (“the other side plus the ‘middle’ truth to the story”). One may want to read what some distinguished and learned Black scholars and leaders have to say – like Larry Elders, and Dr’s Steel, Woodson, Swain and Reilly.

And, as we were writing this, issued were President Young’s 10 steps! They do provide some process and guidance which can correct issues regarding equity and climate (as we have discussed here). But you will note there is no mention about what we believe to be also important about attending Aggieland (integrating and assimilating) and what it imparts to a graduate. Read more about President Young’s 10 steps to improve campus climate here: http://www.thebatt.com/news/president-young-announces-10-steps-to-improve-a-m-campus-climate/article_6109bd2a-af53-11ea-8d79-3789e7c4984f.html.

On June 17, President Young issued a letter announcing the formation of a Task Force on Racism and Commission on “Representations.” Read more here: <https://president.tamu.edu/messages/announcing-task-force-on-race-relations-commission-on-historic-representations.html>. *(It should be noted that The Association was asked to nominate 20 persons from which representative selections can be made. We were informed that within those nominations, the SRG would have representation.)*

June 21 Houston Chronicle Fallout: Texas A&M’s Mond Speaks His Mind

Brent Zwerneman, sportswriter for the Houston Chronicle, posted an article entitled, “Quarterback’s Comments on Removing Sul Ross Statue Received Backing from Teammates and Former Players,” which covered Mond’s comments and received backing from teammates. He reported that Mond and others said that the confederacy/slavery aspect submerges all others, and that Ross statue NEEDS to be removed. He reported that Mond said, “Texas A&M University, I NEED to see ACTION.” He then retweeted an ambiguous post claiming “90 percent of racist comments” on a Twitter thread regarding racism at A&M “have been about the Corps” and that Texas A&M’s Corps of Cadets should be defunded.

Read the full article here: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/texas-sports-nation/college/article/Kellen-Mond-has-become-A-M-s-vocal-leader->

[15354645.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral](https://www.theeagle.com/news/watch-now-activists-march-for-racial-inequality-statue-removal-and-demand-changes-from-texas-a/article_70613e36-b829-11ea-9d34-071f4c5b8aae.html)

June 26, Protest March on Campus

Activists march for racial equality, statue removal, and demand changes from Texas A&M: More than 100 people marched at Texas A&M University on Friday afternoon in what organizers described as an opportunity to elevate the voices of Black students and stand up for change.

Read more here: https://www.theeagle.com/news/watch-now-activists-march-for-racial-inequality-statue-removal-and-demand-changes-from-texas-a/article_70613e36-b829-11ea-9d34-071f4c5b8aae.html

See related videos here: <https://texags.com/forums/25/topics/3121086/replies/56837557>

We could say tons about what has been said, protested, written and tweeted here, but we shall spare you that since you are well able to make your own judgements and conclusions on about the foregoing proceedings. But we suggest that it would be helpful to young students (we were young once too) to sit down for a talk with great Texas Aggies and gentlemen like Bill Mahomes '69 (the first black student to graduate from the Corps of Cadets) and Dan Hernandez (see his op-ed in The Eagle, June 17, 2020), and in the case of young Mond, he may want to review what he said when he made his decision to de-commit from Baylor and attend TAMU in 2016. Here is what he said, “Also, staying in Texas and knowing the type of alumni that Texas A&M has, and the type of network that it has, and the resources that it has is really important to me.” He also may also consider a stroll out of “Castle” Bright Complex (donated by an Aggie), next to \$500M Kyle Field (recently donated by Ags) to the Quad and ask a few of the Corps squadron and company commanders (his student Texas Aggie classmates who just got the same Ring he wears and in a few short months will take the oath of commissioning office to defend his right – up to and including their lives – to say what he has tweeted about them) to find out what they think.

As all this plays out, we again hope and trust that the “deciders” appointed by President Young to help him decide on these matters about “what overrides what” regarding what he’s ask them to do, that they ALL focus on WHAT has set us Texas Aggies apart over the past 130 years and how we shall preserve that and perpetuate it – in context, with balance, considering that change marches on – some principled and some not.

“Short Bursts” and Updates

The Gaines Statue Initiative Reached Funding Goal and Began June 21

Under direction of the President, the Secretary carried to the House for signature of the Speaker enrolled Senate joint resolution No. 7, "instructing our Senators and requesting our Representatives in Congress to urge the opening of the Indian country north of Texas to settlement."

Also, enrolled Senate bill No. 280, an act to be entitled "An act amendatory of an act entitled 'an act to amend an act prescribing the times of holding the district courts in the several judicial districts in the State,' approved August 10, 1870, approved March 4, 1871." Signed by the Speaker, returned to the Senate and signed by the President.

On motion of Senator Saylor the rules were suspended, to take from file Senate bill No. 276, "An act to provide for the establishment of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas." Read third time and passed by the following vote:

Yeas—Mr. President, Broughton, Cole, Dillard, Dohoney, Evans, Flanagan, Ford, Fountain, Gaines, Hall, Hertzberg, Hillebrand, Mills, Parsons, Pradgen, Pyle, Ruby, Saylor, Shannon, Tendak—21.

Nays—Douglas, Latimer, Pettit, Rawson—4.

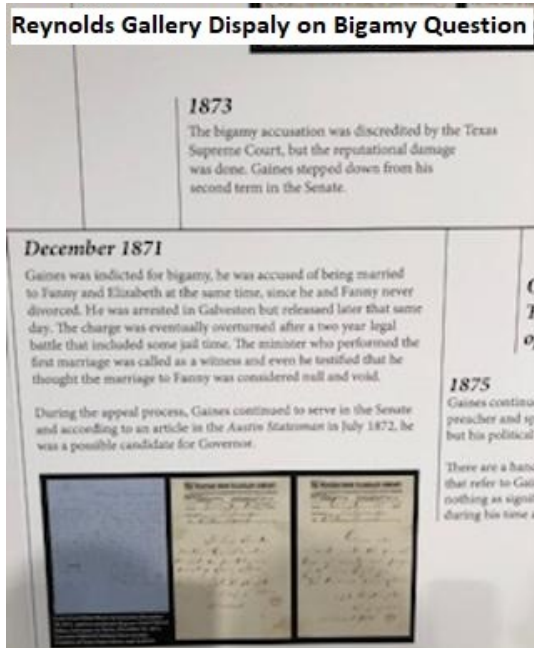
Message from the House by the Chief Clerk informing the Senate that in conformity with concurrent resolution No. 1, entitled "Concurrent resolution authorizing the appointing of a joint committee by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to report a general incorporation law," the Speaker has appointed on the part of the House Messrs. Sinclair, Grothaus, McLean and Jenkins.

Bill 276 – 12th Texas Legislature 1871

We have commented on Matthew Gaines previously, and since his statue project for the TAMU campus came to the fore during the Sully statue protests and racial injustice commentaries during the week of June 8 here in College Station, we think it appropriate to offer some perspectives again to our members. In review, the Gaines Statue proposal has long been approved by TAMU, and in fact, The Foundation is the account manager for the \$350K funding requirement. On June 15, President Young released his 10 steps for immediate implementation – step 2 being: "Honor Senator Matthew Gaines on our campus."

We visited and studied the Gaines display in the MSC's Reynolds Gallery to become familiar with what we were the truth and facts displays. Bill 276 of the 12th Texas Legislature, 1871 shows that Gaines cast one of the 21 yeas votes (vs 4 nays) "for the establishment of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas" as an elected state senator from Washington County.

On June 21, 2020, the project met the funding goal and it was reported that the initiative would begin under the lead of the President of the Matthew Gains Initiative, Erica Pauls '21. She said, "I think representation is so important. A&M and other schools are trying to work more on the retainment of different Texas students, and I think just having that representation, knowing that a Black man or someone who looks like me was the catalyst for the founding of this university will hopefully spark hope in another student to make change on this campus as well."



But there is much more to the Gaines story. He was accused of bigamy, addressed in the Reynolds MSC Display provided here. It says, “The accusation was discredited by the Texas Supreme Court (in 1873) but the reputational damage was done – Gaines stepped down from his second term in the Senate.” As you can see here, the background is also included in the display, it’s hard to read so here is what it says, “Gains (in December 1871) was accused of bigamy [because] he was married to Fanny and Elizabeth at the same time since he and Fanny never divorced. He was arrested in Galveston but released later that same day. The charge was eventually overturned after a two-year legal battle that included some jail time. The minister who performed the first marriage was called as a witness and even he testified that he thought the marriage to Fanny was considered null and void. During the appeal process. Gains continued to serve in the Senate. And according to an article in the Austin statesman in July 1872, he was a possible candidate for Governor.”

and void. During the appeal process. Gains continued to serve in the Senate. And according to an article in the Austin statesman in July 1872, he was a possible candidate for Governor.”

Well, as we have been saying, there seems always to be “three sides to the story!” For example, in case the bigamy charge and discreditation of Gaines, Dr. Jonathan Smith, TAMU professor, posted on the website “Orthosphere” the piece below about Matthew Gaines entitled, “Our Own Chicken Pie.” We got his permission to include it – thank you, Professor Smith. Read the full article here: <https://orthosphere.wordpress.com/2020/06/16/our-own-chicken-pie/>.

But this is an excerpt (and another “version”) to the claim about Gaines’ discreditation: “And by 1873, Gaines needed a powerful political ally. It is not clear who initiated the legal proceedings, but Gaines was indicted for bigamy in 1871, and after many dilatory legal maneuvers, was tried and convicted of the felony in 1873. Gaines was thus declared ineligible to hold public office early the next year. Thus ended the brief but colorful political career of Matthew Gaines, who spent the rest of his life as an obscure rabble-rouser and country preacher, and who died a poor and forgotten man in 1900.”

So, we’ll let you take a crack at figuring out where you stand on this. It’s obvious that there “may” just be some agendas working at Aggieland this June. And “what overrides what” in various renditions about people and things in our “history” will have a lot of “gray area” to traverse! Back to the Gaines display in the MSC Reynolds Gallery, there was a display that was titled “Historically (Un) Clear?” which had three questions about him as follows:

1. How is Gaines’ legacy significant to our campus history?
2. Did he have a direct contribution to Texas A&M and Prairie View?
3. Is he really the champion of Senate Bill 276 if he was one of many to [vote yea for it and] sign it?

You can assess for yourself Ms. Pauls' reasons above in her interview, and the fact that the Chancellor donated an additional \$75,000, and the President issued his 10 steps which guaranteed the project, one can conclude that the "deciders have decided." Kind of supports our point about "three sides to every story," no matter if it's Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Jackson, Ross or Gaines, and "what overrides what" as young Mond shouted several times at last Friday's demo.

Chinese Students and Research at TAMU – an Update

It's not our SRG board's purpose to stand on a soapbox, but what the Chinese Communist Party caused by unleashing the COVID-19 on the world family of nations, while lying about it via the World Health Organization with whom they were in cahoots, has definitely made a great impact on and challenge for our nation and university. We have received some questions from you about the Chinese student enrollment and research involvement at TAMU. In our large and diverse student body, 1,778 Chinese students were enrolled in 2018 (reference: iss.tamu.edu).

Regarding research, there is a very good January 30, 2020, article in the WSJ by Aruna Viswanatha and Kate O'Keefe, "China's Funding of US Researchers Raises Red Flag." It opens by saying, "When officials at the Texas A&M University System sought to determine how much Chinese government funding its faculty members were receiving, they were astounded at the results—more than 100 were involved with a Chinese talent-recruitment program, even though only five had disclosed their participation." It goes on to say, "Such funding is just the tip of the iceberg, by China's own account. A decade ago the Chinese government pledged to spend what would amount to more than \$2 trillion today to reverse a longstanding brain drain to the developed world in a quest to dominate the technologies of the future.

All of the targeted researchers in the Texas A&M system are working in fields identified by Beijing as priorities for scientific advancement, said Mr. Gamache, "We don't see the same offers for English majors."

Beijing has denied attempting any systematic effort to steal U.S. scientific research, and Chinese state media have said the U.S. is using allegations of intellectual-property theft as a political tool.

Additionally, an article, "Texas A&M Closes Down Chinese Confucius Institutes," ([Inside Higher Education](#), by Lilibeth Redden, April 9, 2018) states, "After two congressmen wrote to Texas A&M raising concerns that the Chinese government-backed Confucius Institutes are platforms for political propaganda and espionage, Texas A&M says it will close them. The chancellor of the Texas A&M system said the university would terminate its agreement to host Confucius Institutes – centers for Chinese language teaching and cultural programming funded by the Chinese government – in response to the urging of two congressmen who described the institutes as threats to national security."

This all manifests itself daily in the South China Sea, Hong Kong, and many other "fronts" in which we deal with our "competitor" who is also a "predator" on the global stage. They steal \$500 billion worth of secrets from the US annually which cuts our technological lead. This is a

national security concern since they are a communist dictatorship with a goal to dominate the world, and if they pull even, they well could. So as the pandemic plays out, and we deal with a huge hit on our economy, it should provide incentive for all of us as citizens to think seriously about!

To this end, we contacted the Provost's office, and Chad Wootton (Associate VP for External Affairs, Public Partnership and Outreach) was super kind enough to chat with us about all of this, and he provided an update on the university's policies pertaining to it all. What he shared on all these topics follows:

First, all the Confucius campus organizations have been discontinued. The way in which they operated at TAMU was that they were under strict and regularly reviewed procedures and regimen on an annual basis. To operate, they had to be under an agreed upon five-year TAMU "contract." When this all arose politically, TAMU simply did not renew the agreement. Regarding the research professor issue, Chad said that despite the press reporting, TAMU had a similar strict regimen of oversight and review. The professor in question was errantly reported on, and what really happened is that he, according to the TAMU guidance, reported being approached by the Chinese and thus the system worked.

Chad also provided some information on how this oversight is led and executed at TAMU. Responsibility comes under the purview of the Provost, Carol Fierke, who delegates it to Michael Benedik who is the Vice Provost and Chief International Officer. This is the office responsible for managing the competitive system that permits foreign students to enter TAMU for studies. He said that the majority of the Chinese students, sponsored by the State, seek advanced degrees in business (the Mays School) and engineering. He shared that the system and pricing is competitive, and the accepted students must go through and successfully complete a very rigorous indoctrination program. He said, "We may be 'Pollyanna-ish' in our hope about them, but we are NOT 'Pollyanna-ish' in our processes in dealing with them!" In other words, we have good processes and systems in place to discover and deal with institutional and individual misbehavior outside the rules and the laws.

TAMU's Purpose and Core Values – A Refresher

Texas A&M University Purpose Statement

To develop leaders of character dedicated to serving the greater good.

Core Values

Our purpose statement carries with it the responsibility, the traditions and the forward-thinking of Texas A&M exemplified by all who are associated with the university — our faculty and staff, and our current and former students. This purpose can be defined by our six core values – **RELLIS: Respect, Excellence, Leadership, Loyalty, Integrity and Selfless Service.**

It Is More Than Just Diversity at TAMU

As we mentioned in the last Newsletter, the Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) often receives comments and inputs from members of our represented group of 13,000 “elder statesmen” about “diversity,” and we promised to get back to you on this topic. We realize that it’s a topic that’s somewhat of a “buzzword” with students, admission officers and university administrations alike, and we understand that. One can find a bundle on how our beloved university stacks up nationally when one researches it. [“College Factual”](#) is but one of the entities which tracks it, and they define it as “the most plurality,” and that schools which score high in diversity metrics are those with the greatest variety in ethnicity, gender, and geographic location of origin. When one checks out their data and information, TAMU’s overall score is 78 on a scale of 100. We rank 372nd of 2475 nationally and exceed the national average in the four graded categories (including “overall”) by a good margin. That is good, and we are pleased.

Obviously, diversity at TAMU is important, and the [Diversity Plan](#) tells about the programs in place. It also states that diversity is “an indispensable component of academic excellence.” Thus, there is an Office of the VP and Associate Provost for (TAMU) Diversity who has a staff, is funded by the university and has resources with which to execute the plan’s mission programs. There are measurements of quantitative and qualitative metrics. The plan, at Appendix (p.12), also provides a “Progress to Date” report that one can review. The plan also has Three Major Goals. They are:

1. Achieve and evidence an environment where success and advancement are based on equitable standards and metrics that demonstrate advancement of the mission of the university, and,
2. Achieve and evidence a university culture where a prominent underlying assumption is that the inclusion of participants with diverse identities is essential to excellence in any effort, and,
3. Achieve and evidence progress in the ranks of faculty, students, staff, and administrators to demonstrate that we are a national leader in diversity (collecting Federal and State mandated data on race/ethnicity and sex).

So back to the SRG Board’s interest in diversity and an accompanying need to understand it better, we would like to soon have a discussion with those in charge of TAMU’s diversity programs for some two-way discourse and counsel from the administrators. This opportunity would be in accordance with our SRG President’s guidance to be helpful, “stately” and constructive as TAMU “elders” – so that we can offer supportive suggestions AND better explain what we learned about it to our member constituency.

The SRG board well understands and supports that the academic and diversity components are important to the success of our beloved university. However, we also believe that there is another dimension (“component”) that transcendentally sets us apart from other academic institutions. Lawrence Sullivan Ross (LSR), who set us on this path, which has lived on during our trek from the traditional to modernity, declared that “the well-educated student and graduate should (also) have an appreciation for duty and honor.” We believe that this was true then and still is today – with ample evidence and metrics that we can gladly share. Therefore, the added “component,” that our graduates gain as students, is embodied in our core values, traditions,

culture, ethic, and rich history of accomplishment and leadership with selfless service in all sectors – resulting in the Texas Aggie spirit. So, to mention diversity (other than being compliant with the law), without also adding Texas Aggie culture, traditions and values, falls short of who we are and want to be (reference TAMU’s Purpose Statement), and all three are vital to include in The (Diversity) Plan at TAMU.

Therefore, we intend to recommend that Goal Two of The Diversity Plan be updated as follows: “Achieve and evidence a university culture where a prominent underlying assumption is that the inclusion of participants with diverse identities [add “while receiving a world class education and also assimilating and integrating into the Texas Aggie values, culture and traditions”] is essential to excellence in any effort.”

We spoke to Mr. Chad Wootton, the Provost’s Associate VP for External Affairs, about our interests in this topic and asked him if he could do several things to help us – all to which he kindly consented! The first was to arrange a short get acquainted meeting with Dr. Robin Coleman, the VP and Associate Provost for Diversity. Second, to get us an entrée into the Diversity Council meeting this fall so we can observe the proceedings and table our beliefs and rational about diversity as it affects TAMU and suggest our recommended change to the plan as stated above. We shall keep you informed as to our progress on this SRG Board initiative.

Of interest, and related to the foregoing, the following is an email sent by Dr. Coleman, the chief of the diversity office. Our observation and hope is that if we all paid attention to the six core values as good Aggies, “hate” wouldn’t raise its ugly head:

*Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 9:15 AM
Subject: Aggies fight hate and xenophobia*

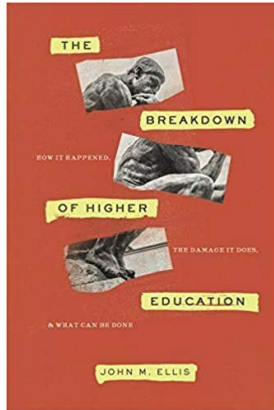
Dearest Aggies,

Through proactive strategies that reinforce that “Hate is not an Aggie value,” we hope to prepare the campus community to intervene on xenophobic and anti-Asian racism such as discriminatory behaviors, online comments, and acts on social media.

In this email, you will find resources to help counter discrimination (<https://bit.ly/2ZfTBH6>) and an anti-discrimination flyer. We encourage you to share these resources widely. The Office for Diversity joins you in fighting back against hate.

*In solidarity,
Robin R. Means Coleman, PhD
Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity*

One Party Campuses



Distinguished Professor Dr. John Ellis's book, The Breakdown of Higher Education, is revealing and pertinent to the situation ongoing in America and our university's campus. With research and facts with which to support his conclusions, he exposes academia in general on American campuses as "one party campuses" with little check and balance competition between left and right, to ensure some semblance of "sanity and rationality." This result negates "free speech" for and from the right, because students, professors and visitors are intimidated and shouted down by co-opted students from a leftist faculty, and this is a threat to liberty in our system. He offers "ratios" data (between left and right faculty) with some for the middle stratus faculty hires approaching 1:50!

He goes on to say that attempts to fix this through hiring practices will not work, and states that parents who went their beloved university (which has now changed) give money back to it and send their kids there unaware as to what very well may have changed.

You can either buy the book, or get a quick summary (which we recommend) by viewing the 20-minute segment of what he said on the Levin Show on June 21 here:

<https://www.foxnews.com/shows/life-liberty-levin> (click on the Ellis segment).

To the point for the SRG: it's obvious by the additional information we have included here below, that this campus, to some extent, is no exception to what Dr. Ellis claims (the exact extent with ratio data we cannot provide now, although we have asked the Provost's spokesperson for it). You can draw your own conclusions by reading this and recounting what has happened in the past two weeks with participation of some of faculty members and students. We want to hasten to add that we have received inputs from trusted Aggie colleagues here that this is not homogeneous between the TAMU colleges/schools! Intuition and observations tell us that they are correct. What one finds to be true in, for example, the Ag, Engineering and Mays Schools are different from others. But I asked one of our colleagues who knows a lot about the History Department, School of Liberal Arts (see the list of 27 if you read the whole piece below), so as to ascertain some kind of sense as to what that ratio might be. The answer was - "perhaps, 26 to 1."

The thought here is to create a "stately" questioning of the situation at TAMU regarding this imbalance, via this Bulletin, so that our membership is aware and can actively expresses their opinion about what they may conclude to the administration. It would also create a counter to those confronting us and challenge them to explain this imbalance and the one-sidedness where it may exist.

As an example, we give you this for your cogitation on it. The following excerpt from a Faculty Senate email may provide some additional insight.

"As you may know, TAMU President Michael K. Young has developed a task force related to the statue and there are also petitions circulating that request that the statue either be removed or retained in its current location in the Academic Plaza. There have also been multiple e-mail

campaigns which purport to provide the history of Lawrence Sullivan Ross as a means to support the removal or retention of the statue; however, these emails fail to provide a complete history. We call your attention to an article on the Institutional History of Lawrence Sullivan Ross prepared by several members of the Texas A&M University Department of History Faculty. The article is posted on the Faculty Senate website and may be accessed by this link: facultysenate.tamu.edu/Quick-Links/Institutional-History-of-Lawrence-Sullivan-Ross-TA.

As our Senate leadership is asked to weigh in on this issue, we want to ensure that we understand the sentiments of the faculty. Therefore, we ask you to please complete the short survey by 5pm on Monday, June 29."

We ask that you click on the above and read it! As a protest to its bias, a letter was sent to the Faculty Senate soon afterwards, who withdrew the history attachment, as it should have been. This was a blatant attempt to sway the faculty opinion toward removal of the Ross statue and called it out as terribly biased.

Again, a reminder about comments and opinions...

If you wish to comment to those who are the leaders and deciders, then below are the addresses for you to voice your opinions.

Michael Young (President, TAMU)

PresidentYoung@tamu.edu

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Texas A&M University

College Station, TX 77843-1246

John Sharp (Chancellor, TAMU System)

chancellor@tamus.edu

Moore/Connally Building, 7th Floor

301 Tarrow

College Station, Texas 77840-7896

You can reach us at SRGpresident@AggieNetwork.com.