

SRG Bulletin Three

27 July 2020

To our SRG Class Agents and their Classmate SRG Members,

Most (if not all) of you well know that there has been a lot going on at Aggieland in the months of June and July. Emailing our letter to the Texas A&M President after the vandalism of Sully's statue, and the protest that followed, enabled us to inform our members in a more 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 these email Bulletins as the needs arise, so that you can lend your support and share it as you see fit. We have decided that we need to "institutionalize" this Bulletin process for continued use.

The Association permitted us to use their system to send the 11 June letter to President Young, but not the follow-on Bulletins. So we devised our own "workaround" system, and the way it works is that the SRG will send Bulletins (like this one) to the Class Agents of our SRG classes for distribution by them to their respective classmates (using their class mailing lists). We kindly request that you DO NOT call The Association and ask them to distribute it for you. Thanks.

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

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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

Ross Bjork (Athletic Director, TAMU)
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An SRG Member's Letter to President Young and AD Bjork (info Chancellor Sharp)

I am an "ole Ag, class of '64. My Dad, '29 was the son of two immigrants who became a coach, teacher, businessman – all interrupted by a "trip" from Australia to Japan during

WWII. He was a great Fightin' Texas Aggie and father. I believe that I have a good sense of what a role model and "coach" ought to be. And that has more to it than just teaching and training on the athletic field. I do appreciate the responsibilities which go along with it and salute those who shoulder them. But observing what has happened at our beloved University over the past 45 days has been disgusting and begs a lot of questions about some missing parts.

I assume that we all can agree that setting good examples and mentoring the young student athletes is included in the coaches' job jar of obligations and responsibilities; and here, this includes expected comportment "from our front porch" and a sense of understanding of who we are and why we think we are set apart from other schools. Add to that the narrative about our value system, rich history of selfless service and sense of duty, culture and traditions which make up the Aggie Spirit, then I conclude we (and you) have a lot of work to do. And that, gentlemen, is also in your job jar. If you do not know what this is so you can explain, teach it, embrace it and support it, we have some folks that would be pleased to help you!

There is no question that any American's right to express themselves is guaranteed by our Constitution! Those of us who have served in the Armed Forces well know this - as Texas Aggies and veterans - from taking an oath to "support and defend" up to and including giving one's life. BUT, with this right, it seems reasonable that with it comes responsibility and accountability for what is said, how it's said, and whether it is threatening, vulgar and grossly ill (or un) informed.

So perhaps we could ask our coaches to focus on this (perhaps they have, and it just did not "take"). Again, we'd be pleased to help you with it. And we have also noticed that there may be a glaring void in the interaction between the student athletes and the student body. "We are the Aggies the Aggies are we" means what it says. And perhaps the optics of your "tweets" could stand some work and context.

Since the Athletic Department seems to have a well versed grasp of our "12th Man" and everything that comes with it including facilities, fan and student body support, scholarships, fiscal support for some of the best facilities in the Nation, we would hope that all of your young charges would understand this before insulting those who are proudly and graciously a part of making that all happen. And, especially here at Aggieland, diversity and inclusion depend on integration and assimilation into the Texas Aggie proud culture. Diversity in itself is divisive - where the sum can equal only one part, and that is NOT what we want here!

WE do NOT want to be separated into "identity" groups which would be destructive! Seldom mentioned in the discourse over the past 45 days, is that we need to surely reaffirm that becoming a Texas Aggie is a "welcoming," great and proud experience wherein the parts equal a whole greater than the sum! Because of that, we ALL succeed and prosper. And, someone at the top needs to inform the administration, coaches, and faculty employees about what that narrative is!

The Anthropology Department, College of Liberal Arts

In Bulletin Two we wrote: In the past month here on Campus there have been demonstrations and much written and said about the statue and issues related to it. Faculty members have been participants. This prompts a lot of questions about standards of employment, comportment and holding people to account. When it comes to bias, political activism, unethical actions, and relationships with outside organizations which are questionable, we have attempted to ascertain what these standards might be, especially since employees are being paid by the State. We have asked those who should know, and the two answers we have received are “none” or “do not know.” Now this is an area that we must sort out, particularly as it relates to who has a “say” much less who thinks they have a “vote!”. We have SRG members watching these proceedings on social media and web sites, and it begs some explaining about unacceptable behavior that should have consequences here.

TAMU is special, built undeniably on the vision that LSR implemented and has been preserved by some extraordinary leaders since. If we have racism on campus, we need to fix that for sure (and we have a President’s Commission to address it). But as a condition of employment here, agree or not, it should be dependent on standards and on supporting and building on the resultant spirit – not tearing it down. “Anthropology Faculty Statement on Campus Monuments,” 15 July 20 (You should read this and make your own conclusions!!) <https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/anthropology/2020/07/15/2811/>

The problem is that they seem to have no clue that TAMU is set apart because of the vision that LSR put us on (preserved by extraordinary leaders since). Integration into it is welcomed to all if they would just enjoy it and embrace it. If we get co-opted into separation into the diverse, identity groups without integration and assimilation, then it will result into divisiveness - a goal of the Marxist radical left!

An Input we Received from an SRG Member on the College of Liberal Arts

“I think there are only two ways these Liberal Arts College (LAC) departments and professors can be managed. It is through funding and tenure. The university should have a clear policy on behavior and philosophy that can be the underlying measure against what these groups teach. It must be consistent with the values on which the university has based its history. Adherence to these principles should be a part of every employee’s contract and violation as judged by an independent committee appointed by the BOR would result in immediate contract termination, and possible expulsion from the university.

It should be a policy that encourages freedom of speech, thought and require instruction that presents all views toward any principle, providing students the ability to consider all aspects and make their own informed decision. Departmental and grant funding should be based on adherence to the University underlying principles. Any action by any individual judged violent or destructive behavior should result in immediate and permanent expulsion from the University. Peaceful expressions of opinion should be

encouraged and forums to facilitate and encourage this should be formed, almost like the reputation of a Hyde Park corner in London. There is a time and a place where whatever an individual's views are, can be openly expressed without fear of retribution. I think this can only be driven by the BOR as administration and faculty have become too sensitive to MSM and the leftist identity politics."

One of Our SRG Member's Recent "Notes" of the Liberal Arts College

We regularly search social media, especially of the key protest perpetrators, Diana Evonne, Qinetta Caston, Kellen Mond, Infinite Tucker, Isaiah Martin and many others and their re-tweeters and other allies. TexAgs.com is another source of information. As of this moment we have not spotted the genesis of the next protest, but I fully expect a protest before the arrival of students perhaps as early as 1 August (when all the other 65,000 plus fightin' Texas Aggies get back and who we expect to drown out the radical small percent).

Professors and students within the Liberal Arts College (LAC) have been instigators of recent protests at TAMU. (LAC) at TAMU is comprised of many diverse departments and Studies, several influenced by Marxists beliefs, with their departments housed at the centroid of the campus surrounding the Academic Building - which houses Hispanic studies, International studies, Sociology, and Race and Ethics studies. Bolton Hall, EE 60 years ago, now houses the Communication Department, and Studies on Africana, Film, Journalism, Religion, Women's and Gender Issues. In addition, the YMCA and the Glasscock building houses LAC departments.

The LAC group is one main source of turmoil and protests at A&M, while the other is The Diversity Office located in the Administration building with President Young. Many protests originate from that location. On the day of the vandalism of Sully, three folk on twitter had a meeting with Assoc Provost of Diversity, Robin Coleman. Insert from notes from Twitter - "@Smooth Traveler met Provost of Diversity on day of vandalism with @isdianaokay & @imancipation, announced by prior tweet."

Alan West Explains Domestic Terrorism

This is a 6-minute video wherein he explains Antifa and BLM. You can access it here <https://youtu.be/g2rEB7i6eL8>

TAMU Recognized by Fiske

Texas A&M University remains the only public college in Texas to make the "Best Buys" list in the 2021 [Fiske Guide to Colleges](#), a listing which cites the best colleges that offer a superior education for the most affordable cost.

The Fiske Guide (created 37 years ago) rankings are among the most select of any organization, as only 10 public and 10 private universities make up the "Best Buys" list in the Fiske Guide. It annually grades colleges based on their academic programs and

quality in relation to total cost, meaning the schools listed are the best bargains for the money. Texas A&M is the only public university in Texas to make the list, while Rice University is the sole private school in the state in the Fiske Guide. The University of Florida is the only other Southeastern Conference public school to make the list.

Surveys (re Bulletin Two) - An Update

In our previous Bulletin Two, we discussed the Sully Statue survey and the fact that the Student Senate had done one with the results well publicized. One of our SRG members had called and asked why not a survey of the SRG membership and/or all the former students so that the information will be available for the Commission when they convene? We promised that we would take this up with The Association and ask them – and we did. They informed us that they have been keeping up with the call-ins about this issue, and that they have been recording “the score!” In essence, they have done an informal survey and shared the data with the University. We asked about the results and could we share it with you? **The answers were: 99-1% for not moving the statue, and yes!**

Plea to Donors from 12th man Foundation and the Athletic Director

A comment from one of our members: “They are blaming their financial crisis on COVID-19. They should have nipped this in the bud when their high-profile quarterback called the Corps “racist” and the old Ags around Sully “ignorant”. Some folks have to learn the hard way.” You can watch it here - <https://youtu.be/ZqZbvOLdaLg>. Here are a couple more comments from the Forum:

- I was paying about \$24,000 a year to the 12th man Foundation after the new Kyle field was finished. Since I got out of law school, my donations alone have probably covered four years of tuition for several players. But I just turned off that spigot last week. I love Aggie football. There was a time (literally 3 months ago) when I would do or donate near anything to see us win a national championship, even overlook the uninformed opinions of our left-leaning players and administration. Unfortunately, things have escalated too much, and I can no longer donate money in good conscience that might end up going to people who want to destroy the fabric of our free society. For me, a switch has been flipped over the last month, and I am sad to say I would rather see our football program burn to the ground at this point than let a single dollar of mine go to support what is happening to our once great University, Sad.”
- “See, that's what our neo-Marxist administration is counting on. They know that honest, hard-working Aggies like you will feel the moral weight of innocent student-athletes losing their scholarships because you stopped donating. But as soon as they get you back on board, they'll turn around and plow your money into their leftist diversity fund, tear down Sully, and call you a racist. It's what the left always does to the right. They make us play by our rules that are grounded in what is moral, while they make the rules up for themselves based on whatever is politically expedient. You have to let go. At this rate, I don't care if our whole athletic program burns to the ground. There will be collateral damage in the form of lost scholarship for kids who did nothing wrong, no doubt. But the greater good requires that these people be stopped.”

Chancellor Speaks to the Houston Reveille Club

Chancellor Sharp speaking to the Houston Reveille Club this morning discussing Sully statue. "That statue is going nowhere", "We have spoken to our lawyers and we don't believe we would even have the authority to move the statue if we wanted to", "at Sully's funeral Blackshear said that Sully was one of the best friends to the black people he had ever known", "sure they are protesting, I'm not worried about 30 or 40 kids protesting, it's the 69,400 kids not protesting Sully that is the important number", also roughly stated that half of what the professors say isn't "believable".

On 23 July, Chancellor Sharp spoke to the Houston Aggie Reveille Club, and the topic of the Sully statue came up and he addressed it. Here is what he said that was posted on FB:

Posters' Questions about the Coaches and Players

Forum Comment: A while back I mentioned I thought it would be a good idea to have a couple of historians come in and talk about Sully to any athletes that wanted to attend. It would be a chance for open dialogue for them to ask questions and go back and forth and then they could make their own informed decision on the statue at that point. I saw you had said something similar within a couple of days as well. Has anything been done to educate football players (and any A&M athlete if they wanted to attend) about Sully and A&M's history? The athlete's approach is so divisive, I feel like they're missing a real opportunity to start an actual dialogue after becoming educated on the subject they're dividing the fan base over.

Our take is that TAMU is a great University, and there are many more students wanting to attend than can because of capacity. If one believes, like we do, that as a graduate and former student, you will enjoy a prosperous, purposeful and fulfilling life because you are a Texas Aggie, and because of "the Spirit" you give something back in terms of service and resources, so that our University can continue to serve the Nation and State with incredible solutions and leadership, then IT IS WORTH PRESERVING. It is no doubt large and diverse which is great. But inclusiveness is dependent on integration and assimilation into its core value systems, traditions, rich history of selfless service and culture. It is NOT about divisive, separate "identity" parts which are not integrated to make the sum greater than the whole (rather than just one part of many). So, we need to get back to basics and reteach and relearn what all this is about during the student experience in a welcoming way! Ags-on-Ags confrontations outside the realm of civil discussions toward this end is NOT what we want here! And we trust that the Commission recognizes this and addresses it! This is at the crux of what their primary focus should be.

Here is some evidence about us for consideration:

- A Tier One, AAU (academic) University (of 62 total)
- “Best value” University in Texas; and, overall 18th ranked University in US (Money Mag, Aug 2019)
- 2nd in service, and 4th in “bang for buck” (2019 Washington Monthly US nat’l rankings)
- Top five “most sought after” graduates
- #1 in Nation for most Fortune 100 alumni CEOs
- The Aggie Network’s reputation for assistance and comradeship unmatched
- First Texas public institution of higher learning; and now largest University in Texas and top three largest Universities in USA, with the 3rd ranked alumni association (Princeton Review)
- Facilities and (range of) degree offerings exceptional
- The Morrill “Land Grant” Act laid the foundation, but TAMU now one of 16 “land-sea-space grant” universities
- Only University in Texas in top 20 for research annual (\$922M) expenditures (Nat’l Science Foundation)
- Athletics (all sports) consistently ranked in top 15 of the National Learfield/Directors’ Cup
- TAMU remains the only public college in Texas to make the “Best Buys” list in the 2021 Fiske Guide to Colleges, a listing which cites the best colleges that offer a superior education for the most affordable cost
- Top 3 in Football gameday experience, with the 12th Man (the largest college student section) standing in support....”ready”
- Per Forbes, 2019 - “Most Valuable” athletics department nationally (revenues/profit with no State funding assistance)
- First in US for six-year grad rates (Chronicle of Higher Education)
- Top public University in US for both lowest student debt and highest median mid-career salaries for graduates (US DoE)
- Per Federal law, TAMU is largest of 6 US colleges classified as “Senior Military Colleges”
- Corps of Cadets still produces more commissioned military officers than any other University other than the Service Academies; and the most USMC Officers
- Texas Aggies serving and leading in battle since the Spanish-American War have done so with valor and distinction
- Research Institute and Extension Service “touch” every county in Texas, melding science and theory with ranches/business needs for success in Texas
- The Sul Ross traditions and Core Values have long been and still are based on leadership of character and the traditions of integrity and “service before self”