

## **Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Eight**

14 September 2020

### **To our SRG Class Agents and their Classmate SRG Members,**

SRG email Bulletins, as the needs arise, are supplements to our Newsletters so that we can keep you informed in a more timely manner on topics as they unfold; and so you can then lend support and share it as you see fit. We kindly request that the class agents do not call The Association and ask them to distribute it for you. If you wish to comment, below are some addresses for you to voice your opinions:

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### **Search Committee for new TAMU President**

TAMUS, 3 September 2020 — A 17-member committee has been created to conduct a national search to find a successor to Texas A&M University President Michael K. Young, Chancellor John Sharp announced Thursday. Young notified the campus community on Wednesday that he would retire as president, effective May 31, 2021, to return to teaching and lead the new Institute for Religious Liberties and International Affairs within the Bush School of Government and Public Service.

“Selecting a university president for this great institution, particularly in these challenging times, is of paramount importance,” said Chancellor Sharp. “I want to thank this committee for volunteering their time to this critical task. We want a president with superb academic credentials who recognizes and will maintain the special culture and traditions that make Aggies unique in the world.”

The search advisory committee is charged with delivering a minimum of three candidates to Chancellor Sharp who will refer one of them to the Texas A&M University

System Board of Regents. The committee includes two Texas A&M System regents: Chairman Elaine Mendoza and Vice Chairman Tim Leach. You can read about it here: <https://www.tamus.edu/committee-named-for-presidential-search-at-texas-am/>.

**“You can’t understand it from the outside and can’t explain it from within!”**

This quoted lead-in is often used by the Chancellor in his speeches. It’s rhetorical but enables him to make his points about why TAMU is transcendent (as Sul Ross envisioned it) and why we are set apart from everybody else in a good and noble way - something worth preserving!

We have been discussing a proposed “narrative” on answering the second part of the Chancellors quip. Answers are: “yes, correct” because outsiders cannot understand it unless experiencing it as a student at Aggieland; and then “shame on us if we cannot explain it to ourselves!” This is our input to the “recommenders” and “deciders.”

### **An SRG Board Input on the Qualifications and a key Objective for the Next TAMU President**

We now know that a search committee has been established for a new president, and it seems that this is the time that we should comment on the vital piece about which the foregoing quip is associated – the narrative of what and why we are importantly different. The new person selected needs to know and understand it as a qualification and condition of employment! In our opinion, the new President must not only have academic credentials, research knowledge, understand the importance of the athletics “front porch” concept, and have PROVEN LEADERSHIP experience, but it is also IMPERATIVE that he or she understands the “unexplainable” reasons which make TAMU great. The passion in which most SRG former students believe this cannot be overstated is evidenced by their many expressions of concern over the past three months – and thus it needs to be set right this time around.

The new leader must be committed to it and be able to explain it, promote it (often), support it, defend it, culture it, respect it, live it, and insist that his staff and faculty (agree or not) also understand it, and at the least do not discredit it. A “void” has existed on this for the past five years here at Aggieland. It has caused issues which have been observed and exposed over the past three months. This should thus be at the fore, attention, priority and focus of the search committee so-as-to get this rectified by the new selectee.

### **A Version of “It”**

We, the Texas Aggies, have something “transcendent” that nobody else has, and yes, one cannot understand “it” if you are not a Texas Aggie - having gone through the experience so it can be imparted to you as a student. Outsiders observe it, ask for it, envy it, cannot understand it, cannot create it, they still covet it, they are jealous about it. Sul Ross’ vision initiated it (duty and honor), and great leaders have preserved and

added to it (Gilcrest, Cushing, Rudder, Williams and others) as AMC and TAMU have trekked from the traditional to modernity. Now we must preserve “it!”

TAMU is a values-based University, with a rich history of selfless service and culture, along with accompanying traditions and Core Values that are imparted in the student experience to graduates. Those graduates then go forth with a sense of responsibility to answer calls of duty to State and Nation in all sectors, with “a spirit that can ne’r be told.” They work hard, are successful with their ethic, they are leaders of character, and because of their spirit and love for their beloved institution, they give back generously in every way possible ! THAT is “**it**” into which students must understand they must integrate and assimilate. The choice is making the sum of parts greater than the whole (our strength), or, being divided in the name of JUST diversity, with the sum equal to divided, individual parts!

### **TAMU Best in Texas...Again**

*Reported by TAMUS, 3 September 2020 - The magazine Money recently asked the question: Is college worth the money...especially in the COVID era?*

*When the editors set out to build their list of the Best Colleges in America, they weighed the cost of a degree against the potential payoff. They ultimately determined that Texas A&M University is worth the money, and it is one of the best deals out there.*

*We are the top pick in Texas and No. 11 nationally. Texas A&M joins the likes of Stanford, Princeton and the University of Michigan in the top 25 of the influential list.*

*Read the article here: <https://money.com/best-25-colleges-for-your-money/>*

*John Sharp*

*Chancellor, Texas A&M System*

### **Here we go again on Diversity**

From Joel Ross' Weekly “Ross Rant” Letter 4 September 20:

*“California is instituting a requirement that all elementary and high school students take a class in racism and diversity. It will be indoctrination based on the syllabus they plan to use which is the fully discredited 1619 program written by a radical left-wing black woman, as the basis for the course. 1619 is racism reversed, and makes all American history and progress tied to slavery. It is mostly garbage according to most real historians. So now CA is going to indoctrinate impressionable young kids with this false narrative. You see where this is going. Expect academia to be far worse than ever with all sorts of speech rules, and classes on race and diversity, and a shutdown of any opposing views about BLM. The viewpoint dictatorship on campus is now worse than ever and is carrying over to the workplace.”*

From Distinguished Black professor and lecturer Dr. Carol Swain:

*“We don't need divisiveness training. We need UNITY training! Diversity, equity and inclusiveness trainers indoctrinate a captive audience with critical theory which comes out of the Marxist playbook.”*

### **By the Way, TAMU Wins Diversity Award**

You can read all about it here:

<http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/tamuNewsFull/~3/pm3BLc2QstQ/>

## **The Martin Incident and the Student Senate Vote**

Here is summary of what we said in Bulletin Two (20 July): Senior Isaiah Martin said last month he found the notes on his car that was parked at an apartment complex. One note said, "All lives matter." Another said, "You don't belong here" and the third note contained the N-word. Martin said he stopped speaking with investigators toward the end of the investigation. "I haven't contacted them about anything, and they haven't contacted me about anything," said Martin. When asked why he stopped speaking with police, Martin said, "It really wasn't helpful for me to continue."

The Campus Police said they have closed their investigation into racist notes that were placed on the windshield of a car belonging to a Texas A&M student, and there will be no further action taken by the department following its investigation and after consulting with the county attorney. "Nobody has been arrested and we determined there was no offense committed," said Lt. Bobby Richardson, who said he couldn't elaborate on the findings. "Our investigation is closed." Here is what President Young announced about this: <https://www.kbtx.com/2020/06/25/am-president-offers-reward-for-info-on-racist-incident-on-campus/>

Reported by The Battalion, 3 September 20, Tarmi Hewage: *The first Student Senate session of the fall sparked controversy amongst senators this Wednesday. They discussed a "fake hate crime" resolution intended to condemn Texas A&M student Isaiah Martin for a hate crime he was accused of creating against himself this June. After a period of questioning and discussion, the resolution was withdrawn by a 22 to 21 vote. If passed, the Senate would have supported an action to expel Martin for the alleged act.*

*The Chair of Diversity & Inclusion Iman Ahmed was adamant about her reasons to vote against the resolution. She encouraged her fellow senators to do the same. "It clearly aims to viciously attack a student and subject them to more scrutiny over an incident that has not been proven to be done by them and has not proven to be a hate crime, let alone a fake one," Ahmed said. "As student senators who are elected to represent students, [we should] not smear their character over inaccuracies."* You can access the whole article here: [http://www.thebatt.com/news/student-senate-discussed-alleged-hate-crime-and-national-anti-hsemitism/article\\_7de42012-ee40-11ea-8707-c78a05d356f4.html](http://www.thebatt.com/news/student-senate-discussed-alleged-hate-crime-and-national-anti-hsemitism/article_7de42012-ee40-11ea-8707-c78a05d356f4.html)

***Aggie Code of Honor ([Http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu)) "An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do."***

*Honor System Rules - 20.1.2.5 - Other Types of Conduct Concerns*

*Student rule violations outside of the academic classroom environment are reported through Student Conflict Resolution Services at <https://studentlife.tamu.edu/sco>*

We called both the Aggie Honor System Office (AHSO) and Student Conflict Resolution Office (SCRO) and asked them if they were involved in this episode. The AHSO deals in only cases for students in the academic realm. The SCRO handles all the other cases

external to academia, and therefore is the applicable office on this one. Neither could comment by rule and policy. We also asked the Student Body President, Eric Mendoza, and Student Senate Speaker, Zach McCue to comment. They were very responsive and helpful. The following is a segment of what the Speaker said that is a good wrap:

*“This was a resolution that was not written in committee, and was also not a bill, no Senate committee was involved in producing this legislation and consideration was only made by the full Senate. As far as the case itself is concerned, to the best of my knowledge, the incident has yet to be concluded by the police department. Beyond that, as AHSO proceedings are confidential, I, nor any Senator, have any knowledge of any decisions or deliberations from that department. Those are the entities that have the power to take disciplinary actions against a student. Student Senate does not. Because of these circumstances, the Senate body recognized that the purpose of the resolution in question was not Senate’s Jurisdiction and consequently withdrew it from discussion.”*

The Senate Speaker also told us, as far as the case itself is concerned, to the best of his knowledge, the incident has yet to be concluded by the police department. We thank the AHSO, the SCRO, the Student Body President, and the Senate Speaker for their responses! So – This the latest information we have for our members. It appears that the investigation is not closed, so we are going to stay on it because there are several questions we need answers to.

## **Get Ready**

According to ESPN, [Big 12 games](#) will include BLM public announcements and social justice messages during games. Still to be determined if some schools or players will come out and kneel for the national anthem of the United States. Additionally,

- 2 conference produced public service announcements that will run during games
- Another message will be produced for each individual school that they can use during games or on scoreboards in their stadiums
- Uniforms will include a social justice message on the front left
- A black Big 12-branded unity sticker on the back of their helmets
- A voter registration program

**You can reach us at [srgpresident@aggienetwork.com](mailto:srgpresident@aggienetwork.com)**