

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Rudder Association's Hope for Texas A&M's Future Journalism Department

Clarifying The Rudder Association's Stance on Texas A&M's Journalism Leadership

COLLEGE STATION, Texas, July 14, 2023 - The Rudder Association, a dedicated group of former students, students, faculty, staff, and friends of Texas A&M, today clarified its stance on the recent decision to offer Dr. McElroy a short-term contract to lead the university's journalism department.

The Rudder Association (TRA) has been cited in various news outlets, from The New York Times to Breitbart, as having a significant influence on Dr. McElroy's decision to decline the offered contract. But The Association is not a "powerful alumni group" as characterized by the Houston Chronicle. It is a small group dedicated to a powerful idea: That Texas A&M should be leading higher education towards a culture of merit, individual inclusion and a unity of spirit and away from the morass of identity politics known on our campuses as DEI.

Upon learning of Dr. McElroy's selection, TRA did express concerns to the administration, as did many others. TRA believes that a department head should embrace the egalitarian and merit- based traditions that characterize Texas A&M's values rather than the divisive ideology of identity politics.

TRA also questioned the wisdom of hiring a leader who believes in filtering out "illegitimate" views. This stance has contributed to the current crisis of trust in the media. The TRA believes that if Texas A&M is to establish a journalism program, it should strive to appoint a leader who is committed to restoring America's trust in the profession.

"We were ready to engage in good faith with Dr. McElroy had she taken the opportunity to prove her critics wrong, but it appears that she was not a good fit for this role. We remain hopeful that Texas A&M will continue to lead in this important arena, as it has done in many others throughout its history," said Matt Poling, President of The Rudder Association.

TRA urges the Texas A&M Board of Regents to ensure that the future journalism department meets all Texans' expectations and addresses our society's needs at this critical time.

TRA wishes Dr. McElroy well in her future endeavors.

About The Rudder Association

The Rudder Association, Inc. (TRA) was established in the summer of 2020 by a group of dedicated Aggies with a mission to preserve, defend, and perpetuate the core values and unique culture of Texas A&M University. TRA aims to develop well-educated leaders of character who embody the values of honor, courage, integrity, discipline, and selfless service. As an independent entity, TRA, Inc. maintains the objectivity to observe and document when the core values and culture of Texas A&M are ignored or threatened. TRA is committed to steering a better course for education in Texas and ensuring that the traditions that make Texas A&M unique and special continue to produce patriotic leaders of character for our society and loyal Aggies for generations to come.

To learn more, participate, and support the preservation, protection, and perpetuation of the Texas Aggie Culture in the spirit of Aggieland and its core values and traditions, visit [The Rudder Association](#).

The Rudder Association Media Contact
Matt Poling, President
president@rudderassociation.org

SOURCE: The Rudder Association