College of Agriculture Development Council
2014 Fall Semi-Annual Business Meeting

MINUTES


Call to order: Chairman Trace Blair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., welcoming members and guests. Mr. Blair asked John Zacek for an opening prayer.

At 8:45 a.m., Chairman Blair introduced Anna Morrison, the Equine Program Coordinator, and she discussed Phase II of the Equine Initiative. Ms. Morrison also discussed the curriculum revision of the Equine Initiative and enhanced exposure through outreach at livestock shows. Ms. Morrison also announced that there will be seminars held as far south as Argentina as a part of Phase II of the Equine Initiative.

At 8:50 a.m., Chairman Blair introduced Dr. Hussey, interim president of Texas A&M University. Dr. Hussey updated the council on his time as interim president, which included updates from the president’s office. Dr. Hussey discussed his day-to-day dealings with the placement of the canon at football games, Reveille’s retirement, and the Kyle Field turf. He talked about the plan to discuss the tuition and fees strategy going forward with only a 1.93 guaranteed increase for the next four years with the Board of Regents. Dr. Hussey also discussed plans for the Capital Campaign which will kick off next fall. Dr. Hussey also discussed that there will be an additional graduation ceremony in the spring of 2015 on Thursday and the College of Engineering and May’s Business school will be split in some way to be determined. Dr. Hussey assured the council that the search for the next university president is still well underway, and he knows nothing thus far about his replacement.

At 9:05 a.m., Chairman Blair introduced Dr. Dugas, acting Vice Chancellor and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He presented an update on the College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences. His presentation included college highlights, Grand Challenges, departmental updates, admissions updates, student programs updates, development office updates, facilities, and the introduction of a new employee, Liz Morrison, who will serve as the event and outreach coordinator to the COADC team. Dr. Dugas also recognized Dr. Travis Miller as the new interim Associate Director of State Operations for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Dr. Bruce Akey as the new interim Director of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. After his presentation, he called for questions. After questions, he thanked the council.

At 9:20 a.m., Chairman Blair introduced Dr. Dough Welsh, the Program Coordinator for the Texas A&M Gardens & Greenway. Dr. Welsh discussed the planning stages of the Gardens & Greenway project. He stated that $6 million has been committed to the Gardens & Greenway by private donors and Texas A&M University. Dr. Welsh also announced that donor funds have allowed the Gardens & Greenway to design and construct the Teaching Gardens Complex, a 3-acre outdoor living laboratory to teach students about agriculture and natural environment. He also said that Mark Wellen of Rhottenberry and Wellen Architects out of Midland, TX, will serve as prime consultant of the project and that Jim Patterson of White Oak Studio from Houston, TX (whose team is made up of Aggies) will serve as landscape architect. His last statement was that construction of the Teaching Gardens Complex will begin in late 2015.

At 9:35 a.m., Chairman Blair started the business meeting by calling for a motion to approve the Spring ’14 meeting minutes. The motion was made by Ben Novosad and was seconded by Larry Leschber.

After the minutes were approved, Chairman Blair introduced our new members. Each member that received a plaque spoke a bit about themselves. They included:

- Ken Jordan – plaque presented
- Holly Morrill– plaque presented
- Blaze Currie– not present

Next, Chairman Blair introduced the guests of COADC members. They included:

- John Fisher
- April Bonds
- Bret Griffith

Chairman Blair then gave the membership update. He said that membership is up from 135 to 138 since the Spring ’14 meeting. At this point, only one member has not paid 2012-2013 dues. If they do not pay at least one of these years, they will be dropped on January 1, 2015. 11 members have not paid for the 2013-2014 dues. 76 members have not paid 2014 dues. 1 member resigned this year.
At 9:42 a.m., Chairman Blair gave the scholarship update. COADC has nine scholarships that are fully funded and are awaiting matches. He said that this year, COADC will match four of those scholarships. All four of these scholarships in total will be worth $75,000 and two of those scholarships are worth $25,000. That leaves five COADC scholarships that are pledged, and not yet fully funded. After these four scholarships are matched, there will be ten scholarships on the books.

Chairman Blair then announced that an anonymous donor has pledged eight different $12,500 scholarships that they would like matched. In total, there are 18 scholarships that have been pledged and four of these scholarships will be funded this year.

He then stated that because of all of the donations being made, there would need to be an updated scholarship guidelines document. Paragraph five in the document states that “No COADC member will receive more than $25,000 annually in matching funds unless there are no other fully funded donations awaiting matching funds. If the council member has additionally fully funded pledged donations after receiving $25,000 in matching funds in one year, that member will remain on the list and the normal matching procedure will occur again next year.”

Chairman Blair asked if there were any questions about the new guidelines and stated that this is the recommendation of the committee.

At 9:46 a.m., Chairman Blair proposed a motion for the COADC Matching Funds guidelines for scholarships to be voted by general consent. The guidelines were accepted.

At 9:47 a.m., Chairman Blair introduced Meredith Neely to give her committee report. She explained that there were 23 actual proposals for funding by student organizations and COADC was able to fund 11 of those organizations last year. Ms. Neely then stated that the committee’s recommendation was to raise the allocated amount of $5,500 by $3,000. The total would then be $8,500 which would allow us to fund six more proposals and 17 proposals in total.

Chairman Blair then accepted Ms. Neely’s report as a motion that we increase the amount of funding available, but not mandated to spend, for student organizations support to $8,500.

The motion was seconded by Jimmy Roppolo.

At 9:49 a.m., Dr. Dugas moved that the motion be amended slightly by proposing that the source of $3,000 shift from COADC to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Jim McAdams seconded the amendment.

Chairman Blair then restated the amended motion.

Someone asked if the source of the $3,000 would come from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences every year. Dr. Dugas promised funding for one year.
Chairman Blair then restated the amended amendment that that we increase the amount of funding available, but not mandated to spend, for student organizations support to $8,500 and that the additional $3,000 in funding would come from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for one year.

At 9:50 a.m., the amendment was accepted. Chairman Blair then restated the motion that we increase the amount of funding available, but not mandated to spend, for student organizations support to $8,500 and that the additional $3,000 in funding would come from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for one year. The motion was passed with a voice vote.

At 9:51 a.m., Chairman Blair introduced Allison Smith to discuss the budget. The budget remained the same except for the $3,000 increase. The motion that COADC accepted the budget was made by Chairman Blair and was seconded by Patrick Williams. The motion was passed at 9:52 a.m.

At 9:53 a.m., Mr. Gary Richardson, the two-year outgoing chairman, was introduced by Chairman Blair to host the new officer election. The new COADC officers that were nominated for the 2014-2016 included:

- Ed Erwin – Chairman
- Trace Blair – Immediate Past Chairman
- Allison Smith – Vice Chairman
- Jay Gray – Treasurer
- Stephen Diebel – Regional Manager for South Texas

A motion was made to accept these 2014-2016 nominations and seconded. The motion was passed by voice vote.

At 9:57 a.m., Chairman Blair introduced the new College of Agricultural Development Council Chairman Ed Erwin to discuss the Spring ’15 meeting.

He discussed the option of hosting the Spring 2015 meeting at the Equine Complex again. Mr. Erwin also said that their options were open for activities and that an email will be sent out to decide exactly when the Spring ’15 COADC meeting will take place.

At 9:58 a.m., Logan West discussed the possibility of hosting the Spring ’15 meeting at a livestock show.

Mr. Erwin stated that he is open to suggestions and would appreciate calls and emails to decide the final happenings with the Spring 2015 COADC meeting.

At 10:00 a.m., Chairman Blair then proceeded with scholarship presentations. He invited Ed Erwin and Dr. Dugas up to the front to help him present plaques to the donors. Those donors included:
• L.G. and Linda Raun, donors of the M. Edward Rister ’74 Rural Entrepreneurship in the Department of Agricultural Economics scholarship – photo was taken with Dr. Edward Rister ‘74, the namesake of the scholarship
• Craig Rotter, donor of the Dr. Craig Rotter Scholarship in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications – photo was taken
• Jim Hill, donor of the Emily and James (Jim) Hill ’62 Scholarship in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
• Jim and Ellen Ellison, donors of the P.J. Ellison-kalil ’79 Scholarship in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences – photo was taken with their daughter and namesake of the scholarship, P.J. Ellison.

At 10:07 a.m., Chairman Trace Blair was presented with a plaque in honor of being the new Immediate Outgoing Chairman by Mr. Ed Erwin and Mr. Gary Richardson.

At 10:09 a.m., Chairman Blair called for the motion to adjourn, seconded and then voted on unanimously by the Council.

COADC Members Absent