

CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS—JANUARY 2014

President Pattillo, Chairman McCarty, university regents, esteemed ladies and gentlemen . . . good morning! To everyone here, I thank you once again for the opportunity to visit with you on behalf of the SFA faculty. If I may, I would like to provide an update concerning Senate undertakings to date and say a word or two about the importance of community, and specifically the shared communities of SFA and Nacogdoches.

Currently, the Senate is working hard to address the shared economic interests, and most importantly, the shared economic future of university and city. In addition to hosting State Rep. Travis Clardy and state senator Robert Nichols during the fall semester, we also hosted Mayor Roger Van Horn and city manager Jim Jeffers, which marked the first time that the mayor or city manager had ever been invited to a Senate meeting. All of these meetings resulted in meaningful conversations, and all of them included a discussion of economic issues, including specific ways that faculty can invest themselves into our shared communities all the more. In working with the city and in an effort to invest faculty time and energies locally through volunteer work on city boards and committees, we gave every professor on campus an application and list of information for such opportunities. And according to Mayor Van Horn, the city had far more applicants than available spots this year. In building a solid relationship with the city, the mayor and city manager suggested meeting with the Senate on a regular basis in order to maintain a consistent and ongoing dialogue with SFA. Additionally, the city has been kind enough to offer a Nac 101 class just for SFA faculty.

As we begin yet another hiring season at SFA, the Senate seeks to assist departments and colleges as they hire outstanding new faculty members for our university. To that end, the Senate has drafted a “welcome” letter to be sent to candidates upon their job offer, which outlines what the university has to offer, a moving packet courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce, the 2013 “Best of Nac” courtesy of *The Daily Sentinel*, and an offer by the Senate to help in anyway possible. Building on the creative marketing strategies of the Richards/Carlberg group, we will share marketing materials with prospective faculty that encourages them to “Teach Outside the City” and “Come Teach Among Our Skyscrapers.” Furthermore, I will propose at the next Senate meeting the creation of a new position, a relocation assistance officer, to serve as the point person to whom we direct all questions, comments, and concerns as the Senate seeks to assist in recruiting and retaining the best faculty for SFA. Some universities have a dedicated relocation office on campus. I’d like to see what we can do with one person in conjunction with the Senate.

For the spring, the Senate has confirmed all guests. We will begin by hosting Judy McDonald on behalf of the Nacogdoches Economic Development Corporation next month to further discuss economic issues critical to the university and city communities. In March, we will welcome guest speakers from the Education Advisory Board based in Washington D.C. We greatly appreciate the Provost’s Office instigating this visit and allowing the Senate to play host to such an important body on behalf of the university. Finally, Dr. Fred Hayes, NISD superintendent, will visit with the Senate in April. Thus, we are hard at work to do what we can where we can concerning our shared communities of

Nacogdoches and SFA. Therefore, as we invest ourselves—personally and professionally—in every way possible in our university and city communities, we ask that you invest in us.

More broadly, our professors are at hard at work, as always, in representing their departments, colleges, and the university at large in a number of ways. The next paper in your notebook contains the Senate report on Outstanding Faculty Activities and Accomplishments for the past quarter. If I may point out just a few . . . from the College of Business, Dr. J. Keaton Grubbs took a group of students to Germany, Switzerland, and Italy on a study abroad trip that focused on European trade and finance. From the College of Education, Dr. Jannah Nerren, Senate chair-elect, recently hosted Stacy Bess, an author and educator, best-known for her memoir titled *Nobody Don't Love Nobody*, which was made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie called “Beyond the Blackboard.” The College of Fine Arts will send a delegation of faculty to China over Spring Break to recruit students to attend SFA. From the College of Forestry and Agriculture, Dr. Warren Conway received an impressive grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to perform important environmental research. From the College of Liberal and Applied Arts, Dr. Ray Darville led a collaborative faculty effort in directing a study for the Nacogdoches Convention Center and Visitors Bureau. Finally, from the College of Sciences and Mathematics, professors Steve Wagner, Jo Taylor, Sarah Canterbury, and Ron Havner have been working on a project funded for the past four years that focuses on the teaching of science to undergraduates.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. As always, I thank you for your time.