



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.R. 76-02

Texas A&M University
The Student Senate
76th Session

The Aggies are We Resolution

“A resolution highlighting the importance of current student input when making university wide decisions”

Action Taken: _____

Certified By: _____

Andrew Applewhite
Speaker of the Senate

Date Passed: _____

Introduced By: Ava Blackburn '25, Student Services Chair, Engineering Caucus
Angelina Baltazar '24, Academic Affairs Chair, Off-Campus Caucus

Sponsored By: Jessica Williams '24, Engineering Caucus
Marcus Glass '24, Constituency Affairs Chair, Engineering Caucus
Evan Cox '24, Engineering Caucus
Will Rodriguez '25, Off-Campus Caucus
Susan Liu '26, Diversity and Inclusion Chair, Mays Business Caucus
Corbitt Armstrong '25, Legislative Relations Chair, Off-Campus Caucus
Robert Hargrove '26, Speaker Pro Tempore, SEHD Caucus
Riley James Pritzlaff '26, On-Campus Caucus

Whereas(1): On the morning of July 21, 2023 Texas A&M current and former students, faculty, and staff were informed of the immediate retirement of former university president Katherine Banks. Former president Banks' retirement comes after a flurry of national media attention concerning the failed hiring of Dr. Kathleen

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McElroy; and, ¹

Whereas(2): In Banks' time as president beginning in 2021, there have been controversial decisions sparking outcry from students; both current and former. ²³⁴; and

Whereas(3): In the last two years current students have felt underrepresented in decisions made by administration, and oftentimes the decisions made seem to directly conflict with current student opinions;; and, ⁵

Whereas(4): A&M, like many land grant institutions, is responsible to a variety of stakeholders with often conflicting visions for the university's future. However, most decisions affect the current student body and they are often consulted after the decision has been made public; and,

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved(1): The 76th Session of the Texas A&M University Student Senate understands there will be a national search spanning multiple months to determine the next president of Texas A&M University; and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(2): The Student Senate feels there is a critical need to include and value current student input, spanning all colleges, departments, relevant programs, and additional campuses when considering the characteristics, qualities and agenda of the next president and future administrative decisions; and,

Let it be

Further

¹ <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/07/11/texas-a-m-kathleen-mcelroy-journalism/>

² https://www.thebatt.com/news/breaking-president-banks-demands-the-battalion-stop-printing/article_e399ccd2-8b69-11ec-966a-2f696477ceb7.html

³ https://www.thebatt.com/news/a-m-president-announces-mgt-report-approvals/article_d001d324-5d40-11ec-a6af-3f6b43d1e3e6.html

⁴ https://www.thebatt.com/news/taking-say-away-from-students/article_b5e66028-8fb7-11ec-9f86-f74ea57fcef2.html

⁵ https://www.thebatt.com/news/student-body-president-to-create-task-force/article_d077b302-98fd-11ec-a57d-a369a683173e.html



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Resolved(3): The Student Senate will conduct an outreach survey to the current students body and student organization leaders to determine attitudes and desires of current students regarding the process of choosing a new president and summarize our findings as part of our representative function. The results from the current student body survey will be quantitative. Whereas the results from the student organization leaders survey will be qualitative. We anticipate to present our findings during late October 2023; and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(4): The Student Senate feels that in addition to the critical need to include and value current student input, the core values of respect, excellence, leadership, loyalty, integrity and selfless service should be at the forefront throughout the search in addition to upholding the Aggie Honor Code; and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(5): The Student Senate asks the Chancellor and Board of Regents to include a variety of current student voices throughout the process of choosing a new President, and to consider the views of current students in collaboration with members of the university community such as faculty and graduate students; and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(6): The Student Senate looks forward to collaboration with A&M System offices throughout this process and expresses hope for a new era of achievement for this great university; and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(7): A copy of this resolution be sent to:

The Battalion

Mark Welsh, Interim President of Texas A&M University

John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System

Alan Sams, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Tim Scott, Vice Provost of Student Success

Joe E. Ramirez, Jr., Brigadier General, Vice President for Student Affairs

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Tracy Hammond, Speaker of the Faculty Senate

Bill Mahomes, Chair of the Texas A&M System Board of Regents

Susan Ballabina, Chief External Affairs Officer & Senior VP for Academic and Strategic Collaborations

Hannah Payne, Graduate and Professional School Student Body President



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Further

Sponsored By:

Grant Hockenberry '25, Finance Chair, COALS Caucus
Sam Chew '26, Engineering Caucus
Dang Pham '26 College of Arts and Sciences Caucus
Eli Purtell '26, Off Campus