

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Sul Ross State University
August 25, 2005

On behalf of the Student Advisory Board, we are greatly appreciative of the opportunity we had to discuss and voice our opinions at the Diversity Enhancement Committee meeting this summer. Those of us who attended left inspired and enthused regarding diversity issues on our campuses. Furthermore, we would like to extend a warm thank you to the Board of Regents for allowing us to accompany you for breakfast this morning. Each of us sincerely values becoming better acquainted with you and as always an enjoyable breakfast.

The Student advisory Board is proud to announce our 2005-2006 executive board: Chair Chris Jones from Texas State University, Vice Chair Carlos Barrera from Sul Ross University, Secretary Tiffany Brown from Lamar University and Parliamentarian Linzay Fontenot also from Lamar University. These new officers are dedicated to taking the Student Advisory Board to new heights, "Together as One Voice."

In addition to these new officers we are proud to announce the newest members of our Legislative Research Team: Chair Jordan Anderson from Texas State, Justin Hill from Sam Houston State University and Jason Sheppard from Lamar State College-Orange. In accordance with Article II Section C of our constitution, these students are charged with researching legislative and other political activities that could potentially impact the students of the Texas State University System.

The Student Advisory Board is also proud to announce our newly elected advisor, Vice President of Student Services at Lamar State College-Port Arthur, Tom Neal. In accordance with the Student Advisory Board Constitution Article V Section F Mr. Neal shall serve a three-year term.

The Student Advisory Board, in an effort to unify the goals and objectives of the nine component schools in the system, has adopted a new logo and motto "Together as One Voice". Our motto will signify the purpose and intent of the Student Advisory Board. The exceptional students of the Texas State University System are represented by the large star located in the center of our circle of unity, where you will find nine smaller stars, which represent the nine component schools of the Texas State University System.

We as a Student Advisory Board believe it would be in the Texas State University System's best interest to propose one institution within the system as a location to the Bush administration for his Presidential Library. Each institution in our system has a unique history, which is worthy of consideration for such an honor. A proposal of this magnitude for any campus in our system is sure to bring notoriety to not only that campus, but the system as a whole.

The Student Advisory Board in an effort to unify the institutions under the banner of the Texas State University System would like to encourage the system to enclose an official Texas State University System welcome letter within each component school's acceptance letters. It is our vision that the welcome letter will become an excellent tool to inform as well as invoke pride in the Texas State University System.

An additional effort to inform and promote the nine schools that comprise the Texas State University System, the board proposes the idea of a Texas State University System magazine. The target audience for this magazine would be currently enrolled Texas State University System students. The goal of this publication would be to inform and promote the availability and offerings of the many fine graduate programs and admission standards presented to all the institutions of our system. In addition the publication could highlight unique campus activities and events, successful alumni, students, university direction and goals. Further, the Student Advisory believes that this publication could meet its intended purpose if distributed at the start of the fall and spring semesters, to each institution in print as well as through the Texas State University System's website. In addition the institutions could provide a link on their websites to the online publication.

With the rising cost of tuition, today's college students face a significant financial burden. The Student Advisory Board has been deeply concerned with this issue and has been looking for way to provide relief and reduce such heavy expenses. The increased price on text books and the frequent changes of edition is one such area where we believe expenses could be reduced. We as the Student Advisory Board are greatly appreciative of the rigorous standards used to evaluate tuition pricing. The Student Advisory Board recognizes textbook pricing as an additional opportunity to also apply such standards. With this we respectfully recommend a system policy encouraging professors, department heads and administration to review the necessity of a new edition textbook as well as the cost impact to students.

As discussed in our last meeting, retention of Texas State University System students is a critical goal of all schools in our system. If one of our institutions is unable to retain a student for whatever reason, we would love to see a process established to retain this student within the Texas State University System. With this in mind we suggest a uniform method to retain such a student and ease their ability to maneuver academically between colleges in the Texas State University System. One suggestion might be a short, simple, uniform, and again short transfer application, with application fees waived. The Student Advisory Board feels that this along with other initiatives would be a sufficient incentive for students to attend another school within our system. A system wide database might also provide yet another tool to encourage and provide all pertinent information for Texas University System's undergraduates.

In keeping with the spirit of elevating the prestige of the institutions of the Texas State University System, the Student Advisory Board envisions the possible addition of a medical and or law school at one or more of the System colleges. Such an offering would further complete the current plethora of program offerings designed to meet the present and future needs of this great state of Texas. We believe that expansion of this magnitude would attract students to the Texas State University System institutions from across the state, nation and world. We thank you for providing us with the opportunity to provide such input that would encourage and promote pride, unity and growth within the best system in the nation.