Guest Speaker- LtGen Joe Weber USMC (Ret), Vice President for Student Affairs

Guest Speaker, Lt. Gen. Joe Weber, in his fifth year as Vice President for Student Affairs, provided his philosophy and described highlights of current activities at the University and responded to questions and comments by Senators.

Three tenets of his philosophy are: 1) there is a place for all in the Aggie family, 2) Aggies have ‘big shoes to fill’ after graduation so they must realize from day one that grades affect prospects, and 3) Student Affairs should complement what happens in the classroom.

General Weber outlined three current activities taking place in Student Affairs.

1) Academic Success Center
   The role of Student Affairs in ensuring that struggling students are involved in the Academic Success Center, which helps identify issues that prevent success and promotes self-accountability.

2) Living-learning centers
   For the first time in years, new housing is being constructed on campus, in the form of living-learning centers. The 640 bed north side dorm replacement will soon be available and learning centers are being incorporated into renovation of the corps dorms. A large 3600 bed complex is being planned for west campus. When the construction of this facility is complete it is the desire that all freshmen be housed on campus for at least their freshman year. This is based on studies showing that this requirement, which is practiced in most peer institutions, leads to higher academic success.

3) Addressing issues identified in a Comprehensive Program Review, which suggested that one area of concern was allowing students too much latitude in the level of participation in extra-curricular activities.

Senator Price (ENG) asked about outsourcing the Child Care Center. While General Weber questions why that operation is part of Student Affairs, he strongly favors increasing the size of the operation. He contended that greater availability
to child care would make TAMU more attractive to new faculty recruits with young families. If outsourcing the operations at the center would improve service or lower costs, that would be acceptable, but the main problem is a source of funds for expansion. In response to her second question concerning outsourcing dorms, he feels that outsourcing services such as maintenance and housekeeping make sense, but there are too many dorm activities run by the students to relinquish all control of the dorms to an outside source. In addition, the Residence Life component of Student Affairs financially is in good shape.

Senator Arroyave (ENG) asked why it took over a week for the administration to respond to a widely publicized vote by the Student Senate that made TAMU seem especially unwelcoming to certain groups. General Weber said that all higher administrators are continually sending out the opposite message, but that while the students are exercising lawful rights, they can only be reminded that having the right to say hateful words, doesn’t mean it is the right thing to do. They need faculty and administration leaders to be role models for understanding the meaning of respect for others, and in using civility during difficult dialogs.

Senator Clark (LA) stated that civility and respect must come from both sides. He has seen too many cases where students have faced scorn and derision for their religious beliefs, especially Christians. He and General Weber agreed to meet for a dialogue on the issue.

Senator Stadelmann (LA) asked about the possibility of Student Affairs helping support a debate team, something that at many places has a paid faculty advisor and even scholarships for team members. General Weber agreed that support for a debate team is a worthy goal, but indicated there would also have to be support of an academic program, perhaps communications.

Senator Lima-Filho (SC) commented that acceptance of diversity has increased impressively during his 20 years at TAMU, but it needs to become an established tradition in the same way as other core values. General Weber agreed and said the traditions of his era on campus (1968-72) were definitely not those of today’s students.

Senator Gill (AGR) indicated that she is in charge of the ‘difficult dialogues’ program that is offered through her position as Associate VP for Diversity. The program stresses the ability to hear each side’s position and offers training to those interested in becoming a facilitator.

**Speaker Comments**
Senators Shelley Holliday and Karen Snowden were congratulated on receipt of Association of Former Students Awards for Teaching.

Donations were solicited for the Aggie Spirit Award, which is made by the Senate to students who overcome adversity while continuing to excel academically. A call for nominations is forthcoming.

A call will also be going out for the Richard Stadelmann Award, which honors a first term Senator for outstanding service to the Senate.

A position description and call for nominations for the vacant position of Ombuds Officer will be going out soon.

Senator De Ruiter of the Anthropology Department was recognized for his role in the discovery of a previously undescribed species of early hominids.
Nomination for Senate seats closed this past Friday, with only one seat having no applicants. The speaker thanked the caucus leaders for helping identify the nearly full slate of candidates.

A call for nominations for Executive Committee members and officers for next year will be coming soon.

A “Jazz Night” at the University Club is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 5-9 pm.

Approval of March 18, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

March Minutes passed as presented

Before confirming the consent agenda, Senator Magill pointed out that a number of items in Attachment E dealing with course changes are being made to align with new core curriculum course requirements may raise unexpected issues. Chemistry will be requiring co-registration with the corresponding laboratory course in order to meet some core requirements, such as teamwork. What if a student passes the lecture course but not the lab course? Will the 3 hours count toward the 9-hour Science requirement? Similarly the legislation we passed specifically stated that 300 and 400 level courses with prerequisites cannot be considered for inclusion in the core, but English is dropping an English 104 requirement for a number of 200 level courses. Senator Magill feels that our legislation should have included 200 level courses as having no prerequisites also, if that is in fact the way that the council will rule.

Consent Agenda

Consent agenda approved.

GRADUATE COUNCIL – GC REPORT

New Course Requests – March 7, 2013

- BICH 667 Molecular Probes
- BUSH 600 Bush School Graduate Study Abroad
- ISEN 650 Healthcare Delivery Systems Modeling and Analysis
- ISYS 645 IT Security Controls
- ISYS 655 Security Management and Compliance
- PSAA 613 Immigration and Education Policy
- SCMT 685 Directed Studies
- SCMT 689 Special Topics in...
- WFSC 605 Community Ecology
- WFSC 649 Principles of Fisheries Management

Change Course Requests – March 7, 2013

- NUEN 618 Multiphysics Computations in Nuclear Science & Engineering
- PSAA 617 State and Local Government: Institutions and Policy
- PSAA 661 Public Personnel Administration
- VIZA 630 Contemporary Art Studio/Seminar I
- VIZA 631 Contemporary Art Studio/Seminar II

Special Consideration Item

The Department of Information and Operations Management in the Mays Business School requests that their graduate courses carry the newly approved ISYS and SCMT prefixes.

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – UCC REPORT
New Courses Request – March 8, 2013

AFST 362  Women and War in the African Diaspora
NRSC 277  Introduction to Neuroscience
VIBS 277  Introduction to Neuroscience

Change Course Requests – March 8, 2013

ASTR 101  Basic Astronomy
CHEM 101  Fundamentals of Chemistry I
CHEM 102  Fundamentals of Chemistry II
CHEM 103  Structure and Bonding
CHEM 104  Chemistry of the Elements
CHEM 106  Molecular Science for Citizens
CHEM 107  General Chemistry for Engineering Students
ENGL 201  Approaches to Literacy
ENGL 204  Introduction to African American Literature
ENGL 205  Introduction to Africana Literature
ENGL 212  Shakespeare
ENGL 219  Literature And The Other Arts
ENGL 221  World Literature
ENGL 222  World Literature
ENGL 227  American Literature: Colonial to American Renaissance.
ENGL 228  American Literature: Civil War To Present
ENGL 231  Survey of English Literature I
ENGL 232  Survey of English Literature II

New Courses Request – March 8, 2013

Texas A&M University at Galveston
MARE 350  Commercial Cruise Internship
MART 350  Commercial Cruise Internship
MAST 101  Connections

Change in Course Request – March 8, 2013

MARS 360  Biochemistry
Department of Maritime Administration
  Course prefix change from INFO to SCMT
  INFO 303, INFO 336, INFO 364
  (see memorandum from Dr. Donna Lang and Dr. Johan Mileski)

Change in Curriculum – March 8, 2013

Texas A&M University at Galveston
Department of Marine Biology
  B.S. in Marine Biology – License Option

Change in Curriculum – March 8, 2013

Texas A&M University at Galveston
Department of Marine Engineering Technology
  B.S. in Marine Engineering Technology – License Option
Change in Curriculum – March 8, 2013
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Department of Marine Sciences
B.S. in Marine Sciences – License Option

Change in Curriculum – March 8, 2013
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Department of Marine Sciences
B.S. in Ocean and Coastal Resources

Change in Curriculum – March 8, 2013
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Department of Marine Transportation
B.S. in Marine Transportation

W-COURSES

Courses submitted for W recertification – March 18, 2013
GERM 315 Literary Investigation: German Short Fiction
PHIL 419 Current Continental Philosophy
WGST401/PHIL 489 Feminist Theory

Course submitted for C recertification – March 18, 2013
FSTC 481 Professional Skills Development

Committee Reports
Senator Jepson, (GEO) Chair of the Workplace Climate and Diversity committee reported that the SAP concerning workplace bullying that passed the Senate some time ago was rejected by the System Council as being not legally sufficient (too broad and not needed based on other rules already in place). That committee is now attempting to have the wording included in the hiring/employment policies of the Dean of Faculties and College Deans so that it will be clear that bullying is not a permissible workplace policy. She indicated that the Committee will be offering a resolution for approval by the Senate to strengthen the chances for inclusion of the bullying wording in those guidelines.

Richard Stadelmann reported that as requested by the Speaker, he had conferred with the current Faculty President, President-elect and Parliamentarian of the Blinn College Senate, who all expressed enthusiasm for increasing cooperation with our Senate.

Executive Session
The Senate went into closed session to consider a nomination for an Honorary Degree to be presented in the December graduation. It was approve unanimously.

Old Business
Committee of the Whole
Richard Stadelmann encouraged all to participate in the exciting and educational events of International Week. It is an example of a Multicultural Event done well.

Senator Woodman (BUS) asked what had become of our resolution to oppose increasing student fees to help pay for the renovation of Kyle Field. While the two surveys yielding opposite results did receive publicity, no mention of the Senate’s stance has appeared in any public media. He realizes that our resolutions are ‘symbolic’ but suggests we should at least send them to news media as well. The Speaker agreed and said the resolution had in fact gone to the president.

Senator Magill suggested that a recent action that charges $3.50 per square foot for research space to each investigator in the College of Engineering be looked into by our research committee. It seems like it could be a case of ‘double dipping’ since those charges are typically a part of the indirect costs associated with grants. Speaker-elect Daugherity, who is in that College, said he is of the impression that these funds previously were part of the overhead returned to the investigators by TAES, but now that the OSRS is in charge, these funds will be kept at a higher level.

Senator Magill also reported that he had been told of a cheating scandal on another A&M campus that involved use of a keystroke recovery program on classroom computers that allowed students to recover instructor’s password and use them to access other files. He raised the question if that could happen here.

Senator Lauder (Bus) went back to the question of anonymous student surveys that the administration had inadvertently sent to faculty and staff (she voted). When told that non-student votes had been eliminated from the counts, she suggested that the claim of anonymity was obviously false.

New Business
Proposed Revisions to TAMU Student Rules, Sections 8.2, 14.2, 13.3, 11, 40
The Speaker asked for any comments on Rule changes that are to be voted on in the next meeting. (ATT M) Senator Jepson said that since Final Examinations are announced before the beginning of the semester, the cut-off date should be much earlier than at least five days before the final exam period begins, as the revised rule states.

Honorary Degree Candidate

Adjourn