Advisory Council Meeting  
Friday, April 26, 2019  
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
AT&T Conference Center  

Minutes  
Dean Randy Diehl and Chair Stuart Stedman, presiding  

Advisory Council Members present:  

Mr. Gordon Appleman  
Mr. Michael Appleman  
Mrs. Margaret Arrington  
Mr. Philip Benson  
Mr. Stephen Butter, Jr.  
Mr. Jim Cook  
Ms. Sallie Carroll Davis  
Mrs. Kathleen Coghlan Dawson  
Carolyn H. Denham, Ph.D.  
Mr. Richard Frankel  
Ms. Mary Ann Frishman  
Dr. David Genecov  
Mr. Julius Glickman  
Ms. Mary Dell Harrington  
Mrs. Judye Hartman  
Mrs. Barbara Nelson Hinds  
Mr. Stephen Houston  
The Honorable Harry Lee Hudspeth  

Mr. Robert Hunter  
Ms. Sylvia Labour  
Ms. Melinda Nelson Jackson  
Mr. Bill Jackson  
Mr. Bill Joor  
Ms. Suzon Kemp  
Mr. Richard Krumholz  
Mr. Greg Lipscomb  
Mrs. LaVonne Mason  
Mr. Bill Matthews  
Ms. Genny McIntyre  
Mr. Brian McLaughlin  
Dr. Richard McMillan II  
Dr. Max Miller  
Dr. Mildred “Mimi” Miran  
Dr. Kim Monday  
Mr. Dudley Oldham  
Ms. Susan Palombo  

Mrs. Jeane Pendery  
Mr. Bob Phaneuf  
Mr. J. Brett Robertson  
Mrs. Tolly Salz  
Mrs. Lisa Sarvadi  
Mr. Aaron Simpson  
Mr. David P. Smith, Sr.  
Mrs. Sandra Snyder  
Mr. Will Snyder  
Mr. Stuart Stedman  
Mr. Peyton Townsend  
Mr. Patrick Walker  
Mr. Tom Ward  
Mrs. Marilyn White  
Mr. Patrick Williams  
Mr. James Wynne  
Ms. Karin Zaner  

Advisory Council Members not present include:  

Mr. Fields Alexander  
Mr. Morton W. Baird, II  
Mr. Stephen Ballantyne  
Mr. Steve Baron  
Mrs. Peggy Beckham  
Mrs. Ann Brinkerhoff  
Mr. Gary Bushell  
Mrs. Cindy Carter  
Mr. Coby Chase  
The Honorable Christi Craddick  
Ms. Christina Melton Crain  
Mr. Scott Crutchfield  
Mrs. Shirley M. Dannenbaum  
Mr. William C. Davidson, Jr.  
Ms. Clarice M. Davis  

Mrs. Adrienne Draper  
Mr. Robert Dupree  
Mrs. Mary Jane Edwards  
Mr. Bob Egan  
Ms. Becky Baskin Ferguson  
Mr. Lawrence Germer  
Dr. Jerry Grammer  
Ms. Katy Hackerman  
Mr. Jeff Hayes  
Ms. Lisa Henken Ramirez  
Mr. Lenoir M. Josey II  
Mrs. Patricia Kelso  
Mr. John C. Kerr  
Mrs. Shirley F. Kline  
Dr. Sue Ellen Knolle  

Mrs. Whitney Lancaster  
Mr. Ryan Latham  
Mr. Patrick Lutts  
Mr. Paul Martin  
Mr. Charles Matthews  
Mrs. Tara McCown  
Mr. Kent McGaughy  
Mr. Marty Meekins  
Mrs. Sylvia Miller  
Mr. Fulton Murray  
Mr. Luke Musselman  
Mr. Brad Nes  
Mr. Milam Newby  
Mr. Bobby Patton  
Mr. Russell Post
Welcome
Chair Stedman called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. He reflected on the Pro Bene Meritis reception held the night before at the Four Seasons Hotel. The minutes from the Fall 2018 meeting were approved.

Nomination Committee
Mr. Jim Cook updated the Council that the Nominating Committee recommended that Mr. Will Snyder serve a one-year term as Chair, with Ms. Susan Palombo serving as Vice Chair. This motion was accepted by all members without objection.

Membership Committee
Tolly Salz thanked all members who nominated potential members to serve on the Advisory Council. She reported that potential membership in the Advisory Council was based on two primary factors: an individual’s past and current activity with the College and increasing diversity, in terms of race, religion, values, and geography. Eight names were submitted to fill nine vacancies on the Council.

Committee Approved Nominations:
Linda Butler Van Bavel of Austin
Barry Dauber of San Francisco
James Lehmann of San Antonio
Nomi Husain of Houston
Don Wukasch of Austin
Jim Key of Houston
Daniel Matheson of Austin

New members were accepted by the Council without objection. These individuals will be invited to serve a three-year term beginning Fall 2019 through Spring 2022.

Chair Stedman introduced Dean Randy Diehl to provide college-wide updates.
Dean’s Address

Dean Randy Diehl, David Bruton, Jr. Regents Chair in Liberal Arts

Dean Diehl thanked members for attending and for sending him such kind messages following his retirement announcement. Council members have been so supportive throughout his 12-year tenure as Dean. He will greatly miss being a part of the Advisory Council. Members were encouraged to stay in touch with him after his retirement.

Dean Diehl presented Chair Stedman with a recognition of service and thanked him for his dedication to the council.

Awards and Accolades

The Army ROTC cadets continue to excel. Out of 275 ROTC programs in the country, the College’s team was 1 of 8 schools judged best in battalion based on their academic performance, leadership, and physical feats. The last time this happened was 19 years ago.

The College’s magazine, Life and Letters, received the prestigious and highly competitive Gold Award for the best college magazine in a seven-state area. The Public Affairs team acknowledged that the toughest competition is at the University, where they compete with Moody College of Communications, McCombs School of Business, and Cockrell School of Engineering.

The History Department’s Joan Neuberger was recognized by the American Historical Association for her work in digital media with the publication Not Even Past.

Upcoming Transitions

Dean Designate Ann Stevens will officially join the College on July 15th. She has been regularly visiting Austin to attend meetings, and has met with Dean Diehl several times. He expressed confidence in her strong commitment to the liberal arts.

Additionally, two more transitions will occur in the coming months. Senior Associate Dean Marc Musick, who oversees the College’s Student Division, will now run the prestigious Liberal Arts Honors Program. Associate Dean Esther Raizen, who oversees graduate affairs and research, will be on sabbatical.

Last September, Kathleen Aronson left her role as Assistant Dean for Development. Stacy Clark, the College’s Principal Gift Officer, assumed Kathleen’s duties as Interim Executive Director of Development. A national search for a Chief Development Officer of the College began in the fall, and Justin Michalka will now lead the development team.

Development Update

Justin Michalka, Executive Director for Development

Justin Michalka joined the Development Office on March 24th. He thanked Dean Diehl, Stacy Clark, and Kathleen Aronson for setting a strong foundation of excellence. Mr. Michalka explained that the University is currently in the Silent Phase of the What Starts Here Campaign. From September 1, 2016 until September 2025, the College will strive to raise $350M. The College has had a strong start, having already raised more than $80M.

The Development Office is measuring campaign success in terms of impact rather than numbers. The College is poised to impact four areas:

1. Unlocking student potential by increasing scholarships, especially in graduate support and study abroad,
2. Increasing faculty support so the College can continue recruiting and supporting top faculty,
3. Transforming interdisciplinary healthcare initiatives, and
Mr. Michalka looks forward to connecting the passions of our alumni, donors, and friends with initiatives of our faculty and students.

**Apricity Magazine**

Margaret Siu, Editor-in-Chief; Madeleine Richter-Atkinson, Managing Editor; and Regina Balmaceda, Executive

Apricity Magazine, a student-run multimedia magazine, gives today’s groundbreaking artists a global presence in poetry and writing, film, music, and animation. The second edition of Apricity won the 2nd Place Award in the College Media Association’s Best Magazine Cover contest. The magazine also won a Gold Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. This is the first time the University has won since 1987. Thanks to the generous support of donors, the team traveled to New York to accept the award.

With this newfound notoriety, submissions have dramatically increased. The original team of three students has grown to a team of over 30. The students gave an overview of their sustainable business and outreach plans and thanked council members for their continual support.

**Dr. Daron Shaw, Frank C. Erwin, Jr. Centennial Chair in State Government**

Dr. Shaw merges the social sciences with empirical research to explain political trends. At the national level, the 2018 midterm elections brought the following changes:

- More than 605 years of Republican seniority retired, passed away, or were defeated in the 115th Congress.
- Only 41 U.S. Senators in the next Congress will have served prior to the 2010 midterm elections.
- Only 155 members of the House of Representatives in the next Congress will have served prior to the 2010 midterm elections.
- This turnover will likely continue in the 2020 cycle, when 12 of the 34 senators up for re-election will be 70 years or older.
- More women than ever before were nominated and elected to public office. At least 100 women will be sworn in, setting a new record. The next Congress is likely to be the most diverse in terms of race and gender in history.
- Democrats acquired 39 seats (and counting), including three in southern California, two in Michigan, and four in Pennsylvania.
- With seven pick-ups, Democrats won the most governorships since 1982, including Midwestern states won by Trump: Kansas, Michigan, and Wisconsin.
- The Republicans acquired two seats in the Senate, flipping North Dakota, Indiana, Florida, and Missouri, but losing Arizona and Nevada.

In Texas, the following trends emerged:

- Urban Republican counties became more Democrat. For instance, Hays and Williamson Counties in Central Texas had flipped from strongly Republican to strongly or slightly Democrat. Harris and Fort Bend Counties went from moderately Democrat to strongly Democrat. And in North Texas, Tarrant and Collin Counties went from strongly Republican to moderately Republican or slightly Democrat.
- There was an increase in voting in urban counties compared to rural counties.
• Senator Ted Cruz won the election by carrying 249 counties (57% of voters), while Beto O’Rourke carried the five biggest counties (43% of voters). These trends suggest that the 2020 election will be much more competitive and more diverse than ever before.

Admissions Discussion
Dean Randy Diehl, David Bruton, Jr. Regents Chair in Liberal Arts, and Chair Stuart Stedman with Rachelle Hernandez, Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Miguel Wasielewski, Executive Director of Admissions

There are misconceptions and misinformation regarding the University’s Admission policies. It is a very complex topic because admissions is influenced by more than a hundred individual nuances. There are roughly 51,000 students at the University, and of that, roughly 40-41,000 undergraduates. Admissions receives more than 54,000 applications each year. Ms. Hernandez and Mr. Wasielewski discussed the Admissions process and explained the many challenges they face in order to bring the best and brightest to Texas’s flagship university.

Holistic Review
Every applicant undergoes a holistic review. Two staff members review every application, transcript, letter, essay, and test score, in addition to evaluating applicants’ extracurricular activities, leadership experiences, community action, environmental indicators, and family dynamics.

Predictions
The University must submit its proposed budget and enrollment numbers two years prior to an academic year. Admissions has the monumental task of predicting what the student body will look like two years in advance. How many students will graduate in the top of their schools? How many will accept auto-admission and general admission to the University? What degree will they seek? How many will graduate, drop out, or transfer? Will the student graduate in four years? What funding will the state likely provide to allow for space, class sizes, faculty, and resources? These predictions present challenges, especially when predicting popular majors years in advance.

75% Law Overrides the Top 10% Law
In the 1990s, House Bill 588 required public higher education institutions across Texas to automatically admit any student graduating in the top 10% from an accredited Texas high school. The appeal of automatic admission challenged the university’s ability to manage enrollment and left little capacity to allow for applicants outside of the automatic top 10% cohort to gain admission. Since that time, the state population swelled, and the University had little room for adjustment.

In 2009, the Texas Legislature acknowledged the need for flexibility in university admissions and enacted SB 175, which limits the number of automatically admitted students to 75% of the freshmen admitted from Texas high schools. Following this legislative adjustment, automatic admission to UT has effectively decreased from students being in the top 10% of their class to 8%, and now to 6%. It is assumed that this number will continually decrease as the population increases.
The remaining 25% can be filled with in-state students who didn’t graduate in the top percent of their class, as well as deserving out-of-state students (usually 7-8% of an admitted class is out-of-state and another 2-3% is international students). Texas law also requires that every freshman class be comprised of at least 90% in-state residents.

Space Constraints
The University is not growing in enrollment in proportion to the growth of Texas. The University budget and location prevent it from accepting more students. Housing, small class sizes, and budgets all influence the number of students that are admitted. Additionally, each college has its own admissions targets. For example, the computer science and economics departments see high application numbers, but they can only accommodate a certain number of students based on their own space and budget constraints.

Taking into account these many nuances, Admissions continually monitors its procedures and reports its data to the state government. Their system is not flawless and is constantly adapting. The recent Admissions scandals reported in the media have raised concerns about transparency and equity, and Admissions is striving to dispel the rumors and provide clarity on the process. Dean Diehl added that he enjoys meeting prospective students on a purely personal level, unrelated to Admissions.

Dr. Thomas Jesus Garza, Associate Professor, Slavic and Eurasian Studies
We in the US must wonder how someone could maintain a regime for twenty years. How could Vladimir Putin maintain a 78-86% approval rate in Russia? How could he stay in power when most citizens acknowledge that the elections are rigged? To better understand Russian thinking, Dr. Garza explained eternity thinking, where time is interpreted not as a linear arrow of present to future, but rather as a continual, futureless cycle of history repeating itself.

Russia perpetuates its image as an innocent victim of external forces, a nation constantly on guard against the ongoing threats of the world. The image as a redeemer justifies every action: war, famine, imprisonments, corruption, and election scandals – all are deemed necessary steps to procure Russian interests. Citizens are encouraged by the media to live day-to-day and never to think of the future. Other nations’ achievements must be distorted so that the citizenry cannot visualize any alternative to their current existence. Life is reduced to daily emotional spectacles, where fiction is power, historical grievances are resurrected, economic disparity prevails, and heightened defenses squash opposition and alternative thinking. Russia creates propaganda that they are ever the victim guarding its citizens against the evils of other nations. Russia will never fail because they are righteous in their actions; however, other nations must and will fail because they are against Russia. This fiction becomes narrative. Division creates opportunities for power, and this must be perpetuated by modern-day dictators. Eternally.

Russia seduces and bullies its European neighbors into abandoning their own institutions and histories. If the flaws of American democracy could be exploited, perhaps by a rigged election, then Putin could prove that the outside world is no better than Russia. Were the EU or the US to disintegrate during Putin’s reign, he could cultivate his illusion of eternity. Since most voting age young adults have only known Putin’s regime, they have no grounds for comparison. Dr. Garza admitted that news on Russia is often omitted from the mainstream media. He cautioned all to keep a keen eye on the news.
Closing
Chair Stedman thanked everyone for their attendance and presented Dean Diehl with wine and engraved glasses to enjoy during retirement. An optional tour of That Which Surrounds Us: Selections from Brandywine Art Prints, 1982-2013, was offered to council members following lunch. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.