86th Session Legislative Priorities

1. ROBUST FORMULA FUNDING
Our first priority is robust formula funding. Base funding provided through the general academic formula provides the same state funding for students taking the same courses across all public higher education institutions. Formula funding and tuition are almost the entire source of funding for instruction and operations at Texas A&M.

General Revenue (GR) per student has dropped from $5,216* ($6,070** when inflation-adjusted) in 2008 to $4,716* in 2018. When the state is unable to maintain formula rates to keep up with inflation, enrollment growth, the increasing costs of educating tuition-exempted students, and the cost of maintaining excellence for our students, it puts pressure on tuition.

2. TEXAS RESEARCH UNIVERSITY FUND (TRUF)
Our second priority is to maintain current funding rates for the TRUF formula, Texas A&M’s 2nd largest source of GR. This fund, in addition to the Governor’s University Research Initiative (GURI), allows Texas A&M to compete with other national research universities in recruiting and maintaining outstanding faculty. The support provided by these programs was instrumental in bringing a number of highly recruited faculty to Texas since 2015.

Since that time, our research expenditures have increased 4.48% from $866.7 million to $905.5 million, and the number of our National Academy members has increased from 30 to 37.

Funding for TRUF decreased almost 22% from last biennium to this biennium.

3. NO CUTS AND FULL FUNDING FOR ALL PROGRAMS (INCLUDING NON-FORMULA ITEMS)
Our third priority is for all programs to be fully-funded and not incur any cuts, including non-formula items (e.g., Texas Sea Grant, Texas A&M Cyclotron, Texas A&M Colonias Program, and Energy Resources Program). Our non-formula funding helps the state in public service, basic and applied research. While we do not receive a large amount of non-formula funds, what the university does receive and how it leverages these funds are important to Texas.

4. DATA SCIENCE FOR ENERGY
Through Texas A&M’s strong energy-related programs and the newly created Texas A&M Institute of Data Science, the university is uniquely positioned to make an impact on both the research and workforce development aspects of Texas’ current and future energy supply.

Data Science for Energy will seed projects to attract significant external federal and industry funding. It will also enable researchers to collaborate with energy industry partners to analyze and act on massive amounts of complex data from oil, wind, solar and nuclear sectors. All of these areas hold the keys to Texas’ leadership as the energy capital of the 21st Century. The institute will also focus on training the future workforce to fill jobs in the energy industry and other data intensive sectors of the state and U.S. economy.

CAPITAL REQUEST
Texas A&M needs more lab space. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s (THECB) Space Utilization Efficiency Score, all 1st and 2nd year biology and chemistry lab spaces far exceed THECB’s maximum use calculations. The Instructional Laboratory & Innovative Learning (ILSQ) Facility will address our ability to provide modern instructional lab spaces, design studios, and innovative maker spaces. The ILSQ will also help improve retention rates and lower the drop and failure rates in critical courses for at-risk students.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
Hazlewood’s Legacy Program. Supporting our veterans is a priority for Texas A&M. However, the Hazlewood program is costing the university over $22 million dollars annually (by far the most in the state and growing each year), the majority of the increase in cost and students is almost completely due to the Legacy program. We need financial resources to support these Legacy students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAZLEWOOD IMPACTS</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Exemptions</td>
<td>1,222</td>
<td>2,368</td>
<td>+94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cost</td>
<td>$9.4 M</td>
<td>$21.9 M</td>
<td>+133% (+12.5 M)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEGACY IMPACTS</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>% Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Exemptions</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>2,002</td>
<td>+120%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legacy Cost</td>
<td>$7.5 M</td>
<td>$18.7 M</td>
<td>+149% (+11.2 M)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes TRBs
** Includes TRBs and inflation-adjusted

With $22 million, Texas A&M could hire 164 additional world-class faculty. Hiring these faculty would allow us to:
- Teach an additional 576 sections,
- Reduce class size, and reduce the faculty to student ratio

Sample cost per current (non-exempted) student to fund:
- $400 per year
- 3% - 4% increase in tuition