

THE BATTALION

1996

VOTERS GUIDE

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

CHRIS WILLIAMS — #1



Howdy. For those of you whom I have not yet met, my name is Chris Williams, and I am a member of the Class of 1997.

I am a political science major and a proud member of the Corps of Cadets and the nationally famous Fightin' Texas Aggie Band.

As the election days draw near, it is important that you vote for who you feel will do the best job.

My father always told me that ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.

It's crucial that the SBP exemplify these traits, for there are 40,000 students who will depend on him or her next year to be their voice in the administration.

My strong upbringing and the moral beliefs instilled in me by my parents have developed my strong foundation built on these qualities.

As you place your vote, I urge you to vote for me, not simply because of who I am, but because of what I stand for — ability, motivation and the right attitude.

The most vital point I will focus on next year is quite simple — meeting the basic needs of the student body.

What is most important to realize is not what I want as SBP, but what you want as the student body.

After all, I'm here to represent you.

How will I meet the needs of the students?

Here are just several of the things we will accomplish next year:

- 1. Fees**
 - Because of the large number of increases this year, I will actively oppose any fee increase next year (that's just common sense).
- 2. Services**
 - I've already helped us get two new parking garages that will be built on West Campus and by the library, and I will lobby for a third one on Duncan Field.
 - I will expand the current Day-Care Center proposal to allow for increased student accessibility.
 - I will provide a bus service to and from home football games, Bonfire and Muster.
 - I will implement class registration over the computer.

TRACEY McALLISTER — #2

Experience, integrity, strong leadership. Through my involvement and leadership with Student Government, the Memorial Student Center and Student Activities, I have had the opportunity to observe many different styles of management. I've lived the successes, but I have also witnessed failures. These experiences provide the basis of my knowledge, and they are the foundations of my platform. Having served both as vice president and a senator in the Student Government Association, I have the qualifications and the knowledge to redirect the course of this organization.

There are changes that need to be made within the Student Government in order to encompass the entire University.

I am ready to make those changes.

As a firm believer in having a pro-active Texas A&M Student Body President, I know that this position needs a candidate ready to take a strong stand on the issues before the issues in question become campus-wide problems.

I have the experience, the ability to communicate and the leadership qualities to take Student Government and the position of Student Body President to a new level.

I want to continue to strive to understand the needs and concerns of the students and effectively represent those needs.

Our campus and our student body is continuously growing and changing.

We must be aware of issues such as state appropriations, diversity awareness and enrollment in order to voice an educated student opinion.

Priorities help determine the price we are willing to pay to realize the things we value most.

My priority is the student body.

I want to take the office of Student Body President back to the students, where it belongs.



RYAN SHOPP — #3



Howdy Ags. My father once told me that, "Commitment transforms promises into reality."

Each year we search for a leader with the experience and commitment to guide us through the next year. We search for such attitudes as integrity, loyalty, dedication and motivation.

All five candidates have a plan for how they are going to make A&M a better place for you and I.

What I challenge each and every Ag to do is compare the qualifications.

Take the time to look and see who has taken the time to get involved in a wide variety of areas so they truly have a complete campus perspective to properly represent you.

Answer the question — What is commitment?

Commitment is what I, Ryan Shopp, offer you as I chase the dream of serving as your next Student Body President.

I'm the only candidate who has been involved in all three branches of Student Government (Executive, Judicial and Legislative).

I'm the only candidate who has served as an officer in numerous major campus organizations (i.e. MSC, Corps of Cadets, Student Engineers' Council, Honor Societies, SGA, etc.).

I'm the only candidate who has developed a strong network of administrative relationships while serving as SGA University Committees Chair.

And I'm the only candidate who has been able to maintain academic excellence as an Electrical Engineer while serving the student body.

So as you can see, not only is a vote for Ryan Shopp a vote for the only candidate who has a well-rounded involvement, but it's a vote for the best candidate.

It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as your Student Body President.

All I ask of you is to please take the time and go vote to help me take these commitments and promises to the next level.

Help me make these a reality for you, the student body. God bless and Gig 'em.

BO ARMSTRONG — #4

FEES — We don't have a money problem at Texas A&M. We have a management problem.
• Oppose all drastic fee increases
• Work toward decreasing our fees by reforming the fee allocation process
• Require a 3/5 majority in the Student Senate to approve a fee increase
STUDENT NEEDS — "We must stand strong for student needs by not caving in to the demands of the administration."
• Develop strategies for building apartment-style dorms on West Campus
• Develop on-line registration
• Keep low-cost housing available and maintained
PARKING — "Parking problems are a tradition I want to shatter."

• Open many of the 24-hour reserved spaces after 5:30 p.m. and on weekends

• Support the current plans for a parking garage on West Campus

• Address all questions about the PTTS budget

STUDENT VOICE — "The student voice is the most important issue on this campus — the students deserve to be heard."

• Establish a committee to open communication between students and the Board of Regents

• Improve the library's computing services

• Expand minority images by pursuing projects like the Matthew Gains statue

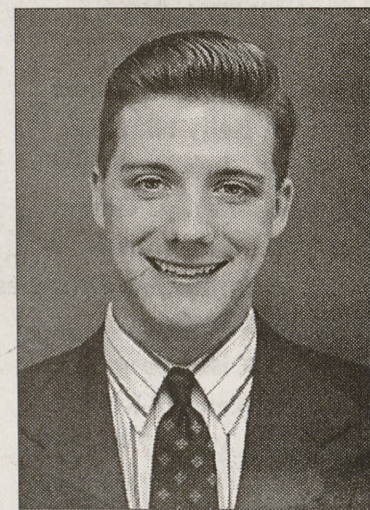
GENERAL QUESTIONS

How is your platform feasible? — First, the money for many projects (building new dorms, building a new parking garage) has already been allocated into

the A&M budget. What we should be concerned with is how we spend this money. Do we want to build more modular dorms or do we want to build apartment-style dorms with kitchenettes?

How can we decrease fees? — Decreasing fees is a viable option if we can get the state to fund their own requirements. Currently, A&M spends \$14 million in meeting unfunded faculty merit increases and ORP (a retirement plan) mandates from the state. If the state would simply fund its own mandates, we would have \$14 million more a year to repair dorms, increase financial aid or lower fees.

Is this possible? — Absolutely. There are already state legislators working on this problem. It is up to us to let them know that through these unfunded mandates, they are hurting students from all across the state.



CARL BAGGETT — #5



Howdy. I'm running for Student Body President because I believe I can make a difference.

I love Texas A&M University and want only the best for it.

I have participated in the MSC, Student Government, the Corps of Cadets, Bonfire, and I have gained a wide variety of experience through these different leadership positions throughout the University.

Because I have such a diverse range of experiences, I feel qualified to lead this University into the future.

I want this opportunity so that I can make a difference.

I believe that the true voice of Texas A&M can come only through the students.

Therefore, we should conduct surveys through

Measurement and Research Services to find out the average student's opinions and thus the voice of Texas A&M.

I believe that I will be the channel through which students can most effectively communicate their needs and opinions.

Therefore, students need to have more input over ever-increasing fees since they have definite opinions on the subject.

I believe that I will bring this campus together by promoting communication and unity among our diverse student groups.

Therefore, an executive council composed of members of student groups should meet and discuss all campus issues and foster lines of communication.

I believe that every student has the right to capitalize on the University's strengths.

Therefore, since much of the University's strength comes from traditions, we should endow committees such as Bonfire, Fish Camp and Replant for our posterity.

I believe that being Student Body President involves representing and being available to all students.

Therefore, the Student Body President must be accessible to students by eating lunch in dining halls and having a table set up in the MSC.

I believe in the pillars I have identified in my platform as the keys to future successes.

I believe that actions speak louder than words. Therefore, I will make a better tomorrow.