

Bonfire 2002



Vice President for Student Affairs



Student Body President

Dear Texas A&M Students, Faculty and Staff:

Over the past 11 months, Texas A&M has faced the challenge of surviving the loss of fellow Aggies as a result of a terrible accident involving one of our oldest traditions—Bonfire. In response to that tragedy, a tremendous amount of time and effort has gone into the study and evaluation of Aggie Bonfire. We must now begin the work of rebuilding our 90-year-old tradition so that our campus will never again experience such a tragedy.

These two pages outline the organizational structure that will lead us to a new bonfire in 2002. Our first goal is to establish a plan for a bonfire that complies with both the principles outlined in the report of the Special Commission on the 1999 Texas A&M Bonfire and safety parameters for future bonfires announced by Dr. Bowen on July 16. We must focus on this primary goal, while working toward our second goal of ensuring that student leadership is central to the bonfire tradition.

The Steering Committee and task forces described here were formed for two reasons: 1) to guide the process for restarting the Aggie Bonfire tradition and 2) to assure maximum input by students and the A&M community in this process. The steering committee and task forces are comprised of students, faculty, staff, and technical experts from our community. The six task forces reporting to the Steering Committee are grouped into two categories: 1) safety and construction issues and 2) student leadership and Aggie culture issues. Each of the six task forces is co-chaired by one student and one member of the faculty or staff. We encourage all students, faculty, and staff to be involved by:

- Reading the information presented on these two pages
- Staying apprised of the progress of the task forces by checking the Student Affairs website at: <http://studentaffairs.tamu.edu>
- Bringing your questions and opinions to the open forums on November 16, February 15, and other occasions as will be announced.

Aggie Bonfire is one of many traditions that characterize Texas A&M University's uniqueness. Let's continue to uphold another Aggie tradition—the Aggie family—as we unite and work together to develop a plan for future Bonfires.

Sincerely,

J. Malon Southerland

Forrest Lane

A Steering Committee has been established to lead and coordinate the University's effort to develop and plan Bonfire 2002 consistent with the Bonfire Commission Report and President Bowen's directives. The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by Malon Southerland, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Forrest Lane, Student Body President. The composition of the Committee will be approximately one-half students and one-half faculty/staff. Committee work will be facilitated by Bryan R. Cole, Assistant Vice President for Quality Leadership. A report outlining the plan and Committee recommendations is to be submitted to President Bowen by April, 2001.

Steering Committee Vision Statement

Facilitate the development of world-class student leadership models consistent with the high expectations of the Aggie leadership experience and Vision 2020.

Bonfire Mission Statement

Develop and plan the University response to the Bonfire Commission Report and President Bowen's Directives for Bonfire 2002.

Steering Committee Membership and Goals

1. Develop a plan for the design, training, construction and implementation of Bonfire 2002 that is consistent with the Bonfire Commission Report and President Bowen's parameters – while seeking to maintain and enhance student leadership development opportunities at Texas A&M University.
2. Provide for independent expert review to determine safety and viability of the Bonfire plans.
3. Develop an evaluation and certification process for each succeeding Bonfire.
4. Utilize information from the task force findings and reports to enhance the level of student leadership development and advisement at Texas A&M University.

Students	
Angie Carmona	Student
Misty Cook	Class of 2003 President
Bill Davis	Student
Schulyer Houser	Traditions Council Chair
Josh Kaylor	Resident Hall President
Forrest Lane	Student Body President
Josh Rowan	Student
Austin Townsend	Former Redpot
Mark Welsh	Corps Commander

Faculty	
Bryan Cole	Facilitator
Col. Shady Groves	Commandant's Staff
Royce Hickman	Former Student Community Leader
Kevin Jackson	Risk Management
Chris Meyer	University Safety Office
Ron Sasse	Residence Hall Staff
Charles Sippial	Vice President for Administration
Malon Southerland	Vice President for Student Affairs
Bob Strawser	Professor Accounting
Rusty Thompson	Bonfire Advisor
John Weese	Faculty

**Come Share your Thoughts and Ask Questions
Concerning Bonfire 2002**

TAMU Student/Faculty/Staff Open Forum: November 16, 2000 and February 15, 2001
(Time and Location to be Announced Later)

Check Updates and Submit Feedback at <http://studentaffairs.tamu.edu>