



Howdy, Aggies!

Thanks to those of you who volunteered for Orange and Maroon Legislative Day 2019. By all accounts, it was a great success and a phenomenal way to kick off Texas A&M's advocacy efforts during the 86th Texas Legislature.

On Feb. 5, Gov. Greg Abbott laid out his priorities for the session during his State of the State address. Some of our OMLD volunteers were able to hear his speech first-hand in the House gallery. For the full text of the governor's address, please read [here](#).



Gov. Abbott delivers the State of the State address in Austin.

On Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, President Michael K. Young testified in Austin before the Senate Finance Committee and House Appropriations, Article III Sub-Committee. During his testimony, President Young reiterated Texas A&M's legislative priorities (listed [here](#)), particularly as they pertain to state funding. Further, he asked the committees to look at base funding support from a different perspective. President Young made the point that annual, per student general revenue funding will decrease if the appropriations bills are approved in their current form. Please see the graphic below that explains the university's per student funding equity.

Under House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1, Texas A&M would receive approximately \$850 less per student than equivalent students at the state's other flagship university, the University of Texas at Austin. This equates to a difference of \$109 million (over the biennium) in funding disparity between the two schools. As a result, President Young has requested that the Texas legislature fund an additional \$55 million as a step towards narrowing the funding gap. Please see the article below from the Texas Tribune for more about his testimony and equity funding.

In addition, I thought you might be interested in a recent op-ed written by College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Eleanor Green regarding veterinary education in Texas. Please see the article below from the Amarillo Globe-News to learn more.

The Texas A&M Advocacy Network will keep you updated throughout the legislative session as these issues progress, and let you know when the time is right to communicate with your legislators. If you have any questions as it relates to these issues, please don't hesitate to let us know.

We appreciate your continued support of Texas A&M and I look forward to working with you during the 86th Legislative Session.

Thanks & gig 'em.

Dave Fujimoto '17

Director of Strategic Engagement

TX.AG/FundingEquityTAMU

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

ATM

TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

PER STUDENT FUNDING EQUITY

Texas A&M's annual per student general revenue funding has **decreased** over 10% since FY08

Fiscal Year	Per Student Funding
FY08	\$5,216
FY11	\$5,030
FY15	\$4,461
FY17	\$4,693
FY19	\$4,647

- ▶ **Texas A&M** has over 20% more students* than **UT-Austin**
- ▶ Appropriation recommendations fund **Texas A&M** approximately **\$850 less** per student than **UT-Austin**
- ▶ **\$109 million** - The total difference biennially in per student funding between **UT-Austin** and **Texas A&M**
- ▶ **\$55 million** would close 50% of the funding gap

REQUEST

Fund Texas A&M's *Institutional Enhancement Request* for an additional **\$55 million biennially** as a step towards narrowing the gap in per student general revenue** funding levels proposed for Texas' other public research university***

These funds will support more sections and professors, thus providing a faster time-to-degree, which leads to lower levels of student debt

\$109 million

\$55 million

An additional **\$55 million** to Texas A&M for the biennium would close **50%** of the funding gap between Texas' two public research universities

*Student numbers are Headcount, Certified Fall 2018, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Accountability Reporting System, adjusted for medical education related funding.
**General revenue reflects General Revenue Fund allocations in filed HB1/SB1; does not include medical education related funding.
***THECB Accountability System Peer Group designation.

February 2019



Texas A&M asks lawmakers for \$55 million in "equity" funds.

"While lawmakers try to revive a rivalry football game between the state's flagship institutions, a

different contest between the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University began to play out Tuesday, when A&M's president asked lawmakers for more than \$50 million to bring the school's per-student funding closer to UT's.

In a Senate Finance Committee hearing in the bowels of the state Capitol, A&M President Michael Young requested "equity" funds of around \$27.5 million a year, the same amount a preliminary state budget has earmarked for the Austin flagship."

Read more from the Texas Tribune [here](#).

Guest commentary: A&M official says state doesn't need another vet school.

"A Texas Tech veterinary school is not needed and would be a duplication of effort and a waste of money – all at the expense of the quality.

Let's look at the facts. The Texas A&M University System has invested \$90 million in the Panhandle, with more to come, all in support of veterinary medicine, the livestock industries, local youth pursuing veterinary careers, and the region's economic development."

Read more from the Amarillo Globe-News [here](#).



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