

**Randall H. Williams**

**(Thirty years, & one month, at TAIU/TAMUK)**

**(Three hundred & sixty-one months; or 10,989 days)**

**In the summer of 1990, when I was hired at TAIU, I was told by the Agriculture Dean at that time to: 1) Teach Agriculture Science/Education courses and re-establish the certification of Agriculture Science student teachers at this university; 2) Create a Graduate Program again for Master's students and teach/graduate new Graduate Students in AGSC again; 3) employ a 100% teaching position, .... BUT that my first job was to; 4) "Make south Texas FFA Chapters like us, at this university, again." That was the big challenge because the university, this College, no longer seemed to support any activities of the Area X FFA Association, those local area schools that not only employed our past graduates that were now teaching in those schools, but also served as the real recruiting grounds for any future students to come study agriculture at Texas A&I University.**

**I visited all ninety-six (at that time) high school FFA Programs of Area X within that first year (it took about six to seven months of constant traveling) and mostly what I found was very troubling, "even the graduates of TAIU were recommending to their graduating seniors to attend other agriculture degree offering universities across the state." This was because they were no longer close to their own alma mater. I vowed to each of them and to the other teachers of the Area who had graduated from different institutions that things were going to be different here in Kingsville from now on, and to just give us a chance to show that difference. They took a gamble, sent us their students, we began to again host the FFA opportunities in their Leadership Development Events (LDE's) in the fall, in hosting workshops for the teachers throughout the year and in the summer months, and especially to reestablish the Career Development Events (CDE's), as these LDE and CDE competitions are the culmination of the teaching, training, and other competitive operations of the FFA school year. In the past 30 years, these 29 annual competitions (no competitions held in 2020 because of COVID-19) have brought thousands of FFA students in approximately 29-30 different competitions, and thus future potential students for TAMUK, onto our campus, into our faculty presence, into their own recognition, and has given TAMUK a renowned recognition as a great service provider for, not only the local**

**Area X FFA students, but for all Texas FFA students that might be interested in an undergraduate or graduate degree later on, at this furthest most southern university in Texas that offers degrees in agriculture and wildlife.**

**In thirty years of employment at TAIU/TAMUK (1990-2020), I have also been in service to the Faculty Senate for at least one-half of those, or 15+ years of membership. I was elected as Faculty Senate President (Chair) in 1996-1997, after having served as incoming Chair the previous year (1995-1996). I was re-elected to serve as the President for 1997-1998, as the first person in the university's history to serve as the Faculty Senate President twice, and the only person to date, to ever serve in back-to-back terms. During those two years, I attended every Texas A&M University System-Board of Regents regularly scheduled meeting at the behest of President Manuel Ibanez. I have also served as the Senate Parliamentarian twice, having been elected, I suppose, because I teach Parliamentary Procedure in my university undergraduate Agricultural Science courses. I have served on every one of the Faculty Senate Committees that existed in those 15+ years and have attended hours upon hours of committee deliberations and decisions, several of those as the Committee Chair.**

**I was awarded the Javelina Alumni Association's - Distinguished Teaching Award for 2006; the Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture & Natural Resources - Senior Teaching Award twice in 2016 & 2020; was recognized and awarded the "Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture" by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association (TCAAA) in 2007 for meritorious service; inducted into the TAMU System 'Chancellor's Academy of Teacher Educators' in 2016 for service dedicated to Student/Future Teachers, having graduated 297 future Ag. Sc. Teachers, and served as the Committee Chair of 256 M.S. Graduate Student Committees at TAMUK; I was selected, awarded, and recognized as one of ten state wide professors by the San Antonio based 'Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation' "Piper Professor" Awards in 2013; and was recently designated as a "Regent's Professor" by the TAMU System Board of Regents for 2018.**

**I was also selected by TAMUS Chancellor Dr. Barry Thompson to attend a yearlong program with "The Center for Leadership in Higher Education" for the 'TAMUS Intern Program' in 1999 (awarded 2000) for leadership service within the TAMU System.**

**Tenured in 1994, and promoted to Full Professor in 1998, I was nominated by Provost Kay Clayton, and then appointed by President Rumaldo Juarez to serve the President's Office as the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) for nine years representing TAMUK as its' liaison to the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) and the Lone Star Conference (LSC) (2007-2016). I was presented the Lone Star Conference – 'Distinguished Service Award' in 2017 from Commissioner Jay Poerner.**

**In 2000 I was appointed by President Marc Cisneros to head up and lead an Institutional Self-Study of Internal Investigation concerning the Athletics Program at TAMUK and the football program that involved the NCAA and the Lone Star Conference. The study concluded with a 700 plus page detailed document that was delivered to the NCAA that ultimately created sanctions against Javelina Athletics.**

**In 2017 I was appointed by Provost Heidi Anderson from a directive by President Steven H. Tallant to conduct an Internal Investigation of factions of the TAMUK Faculty Senate that ended up producing a six-page whitepaper. (No sanctions were involved.)**

**I have attended over 105 Graduation Commencement activities, having served as a Marshal for 65 separate commencements, and as the Lead Marshal for 44 of those commencements.**

**I have served a full six-year term on the 'Texas FFA Association' State Board of Directors; two terms on the state 'Agricultural Teachers Association of Texas' Board of Directors; and served as President of the 'Agricultural Consortium of Texas,' and the 'Professional Agricultural Workers of Texas' during my tenure here at TAMUK. I have been honored with the 'Distinguished Service Award' from the Texas FFA Association seven times (2000, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, & 2019) and awarded the Texas Honorary State FFA Degree three times (1979, 2000, & 2010). I was honored with the 'Distinguished Service Award' from the National FFA Association (2015) and awarded their Honorary American FFA Degree (1994).**

**And Randall's proudest service of all is being a Vietnam War Veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served as a Cryptologist for the Naval Security Intelligence Group and the National Security Agency (1969-1975).**