Dear Faculty/Staff and Students,

We know that many of you watched the livestream of the presentation on the proposed merger of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M-Kingsville at the Board of Regents meeting Thursday and have seen the media reports and social media postings about it. We also know emotions are running high and that there is much speculation about what the future holds. I would like to make sure that everyone has the facts about the current situation. As things stand now, the following are the facts.

- Chancellor Sharp has raised the concept of combining Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M University-Kingsville. His stated aim is to create an emerging research university in South Texas. At this point, no action has been taken or any decisions made about what such a merger, if approved, would look like.
- Such a merger would take legislative action. Endorsement by the Board of Regents is not required for legislators to approve a bill authorizing the merger, but without it, legislators may be reluctant to act.
- The presentation to the Board of Regents Thursday outlined pros and cons on the merger as well as necessary steps for it to occur. In addition to legislative action, approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges would be required. That would be at least a two-year process. Merging of athletic programs, with A&M-Corpus competing in Division I and A&M-Kingsville competing in Division II, would also require an in-depth process.
- If you were watching the livestream, you saw that there was robust discussion among the regents about the proposed merger, and particularly about the need for obtaining appropriate input from students, faculty, staff and the community. We do not yet know how the Board wishes for this input to be obtained, but we will continue to work with the A&M System to ensure that the thoughts and concerns of the campus and are heard. We will coordinate with Faculty Senate, Staff Council and Student Government Association to hold forums where we can hear input and provide information.
- The Corpus Christi legislative delegation, composed of Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, Rep. Todd Hunter and Rep. Abel Herrero, issued the following statement Thursday following the Board of Regents meeting: "We as the Corpus Christi legislative delegation are aware of the discussions of the issue of the idea of merging Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M University-Kingsville. We encourage the Texas A&M University System, the Texas A&M University Board of Regents and Nueces County and Kleberg
County communities to discuss and review this matter comprehensively and to include all groups. We will not support any legislation or proposal that would adversely affect or be harmful or detrimental to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi or the Corpus Christi community. There are no plans at this time to file any legislation."

We want to take the opportunity to remind you of System Policy 07.03 and our associated rule 07.03.01.C1 that outlines your responsibilities as state employees regarding political activity as well as your rights as citizens. Also, we have established an e-mail address where you can send your questions. It is feedback@tamucc.edu.

I pledge to keep you informed as factual information becomes available, and after my retirement at the end of December, Dr. Quintanilla has pledged to do the same.

With best regards,

Dr. Flavius C. Killebrew
President/CEO, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi