

**Senate Higher Education Subcommittee**  
**Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee**

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Dr. Elsa A. Murano  
President, Texas A&M University  
*Remarks Outline*

- I. Texas A&M University perspective of a Tier One research institution.
  - a. Texas A&M University attempted to gain AAU membership on three separate occasions before reaching certification on the fourth and final submission in 2005. (total of 4 times maximum allowed submission)
  - b. Comprehensive review with the following components:
    - i. **Distinguished Achievements – Faculty**  
Nobel Prize, National Medal of Science, Priestley Medal, Pulitzer Prize & World Food Prize  
Members of the National Academies of Sciences & Engineering  
Chief Executive Officers of Professional or Academic Societies  
Fulbright Program Awards  
Foreign Academies  
Fellows of Professional or Academic Societies
    - ii. **Distinguished Achievements – Former Students**  
Members of the National Academies of Sciences & Engineering  
Leaders in Business, Industry, Academia, Government
    - iii. **Distinguished Achievements – Students**  
National Merit Scholars, Honors Program, Other individual awards (such as National Science Foundation Fellows, National Endowment for Humanities)
    - iv. **Undergraduate Programs**
    - v. **Graduate and Post-doctoral programs**
    - vi. **Professional Degree Programs**
    - vii. **University Libraries**
    - viii. **International Activities**
    - ix. **Budget & Economic Impact**

- II. Texas A&M University fully supports the development of additional flagship public research universities in the state.
  - a. Examine the benefits of additional flagships.
  - b. Imperative need for continued sustainability and enriched support of the existing Tier One Texas institutions.
  - c. Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund – Enrichment of research  
Texas A&M University profile of top researcher/scientist – what it takes to recruit and retain this caliber of academic professional; example of the state’s investment in this level of faculty.