



ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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MCDANIEL-SIBLEY FOCUS ON THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

President and Vice President Meet with Vice Chancellor to Discuss how to Prepare for Legislative Session

On June 4th Governor Perry ordered every state agency to draft fiscal year budgets with a potential 10% cut in total legislative appropriation request and operating budgets in anticipation of another budget shortfall this session. This includes institutions of higher education like Texas State. The same precaution was called for by the Governor last session. The cuts resulted in some revision to the Texas State Campus Master Plan and reduced research dollars.

Student Body President, Nathan McDaniel, and Student Body Vice President, Alison Sibley, met with The Texas State University System Vice Chancellor for Government Relations, Sean Cunningham, to discuss how Texas State student representatives could take an active role in the legislative sessions. The conversation focused on bringing more value to Texas State students' degrees while preventing sweeping cuts to the budget.

Vice Chancellor Cunningham was clear that any plan to promote Texas State University had to be strategic in its planning and execution. The system is currently rebranding itself and reintroducing the system and its mission to state representatives. In addition the Vice Chancellor noted that increased financial encumbrances from Medicare and the Affordable Care Act were adding more pressure to the states' fiscal situation, but he anticipated a much less substantial shortfall this session than in the last.

President McDaniel signed Executive Order 7, establishing a Commission on Legislative Affairs to head up the Associated Student Government's efforts in the capital. McDaniel wants to see more Texas State students meeting with state legislators and testifying at as many committee hearings as possible. Using the system office as a guide President McDaniel would like to focus on highlighting Texas State's current efforts in research to help prevent even deeper cuts. In addition, he'd like to tell the story of Texas State University to help state representatives understand what Texas State is all about and it's potential in the future.