

date: Thu, Jun 13, 2013 at 1:07 AM
subject: Statement from the Faculty Senate Speaker

Dear colleagues,

First, as I stated in the meeting Monday, I will not unilaterally add an invocation or “opening words of wisdom” at senate meetings.

Second, I take full responsibility for the discomfort I have caused. Although I consulted a number of others, I made the decision to offer an opportunity for the Pledge of Allegiance, for those who chose to participate, and I wanted to let the senate know I was talking to the Executive Committee about having an invocation or “opening words of wisdom.” My thought was that this would be rotated among a wide variety of viewpoints, both secular and religious, and to tap Senator Stadelmann’s expertise to coordinate the selection of presenters. It was a mistake to use the term chaplain or ad hoc committee so I am canceling that.

Finally, I humbly ask your forgiveness for my mistakes in judgment and welcome your alternative proposals for better ways to model our core Aggie values.

Due to the volume of email I have received it will take me some time to reply individually, but I will respond as I am able. My country and its flag are precious to me: my father, his brother, and his cousin all served in World War II, and my father's cousin died at Iwo Jima. I respect and honor the senate as well, and shared governance is important to me, as evidenced by my senate activities over the last eight years, including four tumultuous years when (counting acting and interim) we had four presidents.

I assure you I acted in good faith with the best intentions and no hidden agenda, and sincerely want to make our senate and our university a better place and to regain your confidence as a worthy speaker.

Best regards,

Walter Daugherty
Speaker, 2013-2014