

MEMORANDUM

To: TAMUK Campus Community
From: James M. Palmer *JMPalmer*
Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: March 11, 2026

Re: Leadership of the College of Arts and Sciences and Restructuring

As many are aware, over the last several months Dr. Scott Jones, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has led a college-wide effort to redesign and reorganize the academic structure of the college. Moving from ten departments to six schools, the reorganization focuses on identity, opportunity, and building the future of Arts & Sciences at Texas A&M University–Kingsville.

Under his leadership and working across the college, faculty and staff are building a college that:

1. Strengthens its role as the center of learning, discovery, and creativity in South Texas;
2. Creates new interdisciplinary pathways aligned with 21st-century careers;
3. Leverages shared resources for greater innovation, impact and efficiency;
4. Establishes leadership opportunities for faculty, staff, and students; and
5. Prepares Javelinas for a rapidly changing workforce.

The College's structure would be as follows, inclusive of the Conner Museum:

School of Music

A nationally recognized program that combines artistic excellence, performance, sound recording, and music education to enrich the cultural life of South Texas while preparing students for professional careers in music and the arts.

School of Arts, Communication, and Literature

An interdisciplinary community that develops creative expression, cultural understanding, storytelling, and communication skills through the study and practice of the arts, media, languages, and literature.

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

A dynamic group of disciplines that examines human behavior, civic life, and public policy, preparing students to understand complex social challenges and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

School of Mathematics and Physical Sciences

The scientific and quantitative foundation of the university, providing essential coursework and research opportunities in mathematics, chemistry, physics, and related fields that support STEM education across campus.

School of Biology and Biomedical Sciences

A research-active academic unit that prepares students for careers in science, medicine, and health professions through rigorous study of biological systems and hands-on laboratory experience.

School of Nursing, Clinical, and Allied Health

A workforce-focused school that prepares students for high-demand careers in healthcare through accredited programs in nursing, social work, communication sciences and disorders, and human nutrition.

John E. Conner Museum

A living-learning laboratory that preserves and interprets the history and heritage of South Texas while providing hands-on opportunities and community engagement for students and the region.

This redesign is driven by optimism, by opportunity, and by a shared belief in what Arts & Sciences can be for our students and for South Texas. Members of the college have had opportunities to participate meaningfully in shaping its future, and Dr. Jones has communicated regularly, engaged broadly, and moved forward with transparency and collaboration at every step. Once solidified, the university will seek approval for the administrative changes through the Texas A&M University System and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

In the coming days, Dr. Jones will share updates outlining the proposed structure, the leadership model that will guide the college and new schools, and opportunities for faculty to participate in shaping the next chapter of the college.

Because of the extraordinary leadership Dr. Jones has shown during his time as interim dean, I approached President Vela today with my recommendation that we move forward under the proposed structure changes with Dr. Jones as the permanent leader of the college. Doing so would facilitate moving forward with leadership decisions in the college under the new structural model. Considering the recommendation thoughtfully, Dr. Vela has approved. We will seek approval from the System for his role effective June 1, 2026.

cc: Robert H. Vela Jr.