

UNITED NATIONS DIPLOMAT MEETS WITH MAYOR OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

Scholars, Politics, Business, & Community



From left to right: Jenny Milczewski (President of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley MBA Association), Mayor Patrick McNulty (Mayor of South Padre Island), Andrew Fale Lesā (Samoan United Nations Diplomat), and Randy Smith (South Padre Island City Manager).

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TX - Samoan-Native United Nations Diplomat, [Andrew Fale Lesā](#), accompanied by Jenny Milczewski, President of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's [Masters of Business Administration Association](#), met with South Padre Island Mayor Patrick McNulty and his City Manager, Randy Smith on Friday April 1, 2022.

Mr. Lesa and Mayor McNulty are both dealing with their respective island communities which were impacted from a downturn in travel and tourism, however after a brief discussion of economics and business, the two agreed that the industry is looking much better in this post-COVID era.

Even though island life is very different on South Padre Island when compared to the isolated Pacific Island Nation of Samoa, there are many commonalities between the two. Although they are a world apart, sustainable business, environmental conservation, and welcoming visitors are important factors that are being addressed by these two government officials in their daily work.

“It was really great that Mr. Lesā (UN Diplomat and Yale alum) and Mayor McNulty could find common ground on which to discuss their ideas about improving island life for their people” said Jenny Milczewski when asked about the meeting. Ms Milczewski took up an interest in government affairs when awarded an [“Archer Fellowship”](#) opportunity through UTRGV, where she will be doing federal policy research in Washington DC during the Summer of 2022.

Mr. Lesa was in South Texas to speak at UTRGV about the United Nations and the politics of international trade to the [Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship](#).

For more information contact jenny.milczewski01@utrgv.edu or call (602) 448-8692