




REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GENERAL FACULTY

October 2014
UA and SYSFAC



Announcements

- University Assembly
- Texas Council of Faculty Senates
- On Rowdy:
 1. Extensive SGF Report from SYSFAC
 2. Regents' Report on IP
 3. Current UTSA LAR
 4. THECB Incentive-Based Formula Funding

SYSFAC Highlights

- First visit from BOR to SYSFAC: Chairman Foster reported 1st priority is ITL.
- System is busy w/ the transition to Admiral McCraven's team, hiring UT-Austin president, and opening two new medical schools. Faculty governance and representation, 360 degree evaluation of administration, improved communication (esp. from Deans to faculty), and space utilization worries will be the main foci of the System this SY.
- There is a major push from THECB for incentive based formula-funding.
- The System Task Force on IP has put out a draft of its recommendations to the BOR; major FAC worries include faculty ownership of IT, the reallocation of the 50/50 rule to institutions, the role of 'commercialization efforts' in P/T, and the lack of faculty representation on this important task force.

Budget

Constraints/Highlights

- Last legislative term, there was a 4.4% increase in funding for higher education, which brought Texas funding for higher education only up to '08-09 levels.
- FY 16-17 budget pressures: School finance lawsuit (biggest issue), Medicaid, border security, water, business/local property tax relief.
- System Higher Ed funding priorities: 1.) Capital Projects; 2) Formula Funding (outcomes-based funding); 3.) full funding for Hazlewood tuition exemption; 4.) financial aid—but especially work study); 5.) Engineering education initiative (computer science & engineering; a matching grant initiative has been requested by system to fund this up to \$40m).

Upcoming Legislative Issues

- **In-state tuition for undocumented students; concealed handguns (Chancellor Figueroa was alone among Chancellors as a staunch opponent, we await direction from McCray); domestic partner benefits (increasingly important recruitment/retainment issue for faculty); community colleges awarding BAs; GRIP; and 'honest transcripts'.**
- **There will be new chairs in the next legislature, including Appropriations and Higher Education in House; of course new Lt. Gov and Gov; in Senate new chairs in Finance, State Affairs, and possibly the Higher Education Committee.**