

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY AND

## DOCUMENT and PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

The minutes of the University Assembly meeting of October 12, 1999, published below have been prepared for the immediate use of the members of the University Assembly and are included in its Documents and proceedings. They are also included in the Documents and Minutes of the General Faculty for the information of the members.

Betty S. Travis, Secretary  
The General Faculty

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 1999

The first regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 1999-2000 was held in room 4.03.08, John Peace Library Building, on October 12, 1999, at 3:30 p.m. with Dr. Ricardo Romo presiding.

#### I. ATTENDANCE

**PRESENT:** Ron Alexander, Raul Aranovich, Deborah Armstrong, Ron Ayers, Guy Bailey, Russell Briner, John Brown, Robert Burdick, Alan Craven, Jacquelyn Crinion, Keith Fairchild, Jane Findling, Emily Gaston, Patricia Graham, Patricia Harris, Kellye Jones, Daniel Kahl, Michael Kelly, Louis Mendoza, George Negrete, F. Alexander Norman, Tom Ricento, Walter B. Richardson, Jr., Ricardo Romo, James Schneider, Leila Slimane, Betty Travis, Raydel Tullous, Jude Valdez, Anthony Van Reusen, Sandra Welch, Xochitl Yanez

**ABSENT:** Diana Allan, Mark Blizard, Patti Cutler (excused), Eugene Dowdy, Jahan Eftekhari, James Gaertner, Weldon Hammond, Wanda Hedrick, Dwight Henderson, Robert Hiromoto, David Larson, Lea Leite, Constance Lowe, R. K. Smith, Corina Vargas

**Total members present: 32**

**Total members absent: 15**

II. Minutes of the May 4, 1999, meeting were approved.

#### III. Reports

##### A. President - Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo welcomed the members of the University Assembly and thanked members who had been participants at the Inaugural Convocation on October 11, 1999. He also thanked everyone for being involved in the University Assembly and its important work. Dr. Romo reported that he has had discussions with various individuals about the University Assembly and will continue to visit on the subject.

##### B. Secretary - Dr. Betty S. Travis

In her role as Secretary of the General Faculty and Secretary of the University Assembly, Dr. Travis extended a warm welcome to Dr. Romo and to his wife, Dr. Harriet Romo. She said that faculty look forward to Dr. Romo's leadership as issues that have concerned the faculty over the last few years are brought to closure. These issues include the grievance policy, the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate, and academic restructuring.

Dr. Travis reported on issues that have been brought forward to the University of Texas System Faculty Advisory Council. She explained that the System Council consists of two representatives from each of the fifteen campuses of The University of Texas System. The Council has three officers - the chair, the past chair and the chair-elect. Dr. Travis announced that she is currently serving as chair-elect and will be the first faculty member from The University of Texas at San Antonio to chair the Council, as well as being the first woman chair of the group. The Council is advisory to the chancellor and to the Board of Regents on faculty issues. The two representatives from UTSA are Dr. James Schneider, chair of the Faculty Senate, and Dr. Arturo Vega, past chair of the Faculty Senate.

She stated that UTSA representatives had been concerned that policy changes approved at the Board of Regents' meeting in August would affect the UTSA Grievance Policy. A meeting of the Council Governance Committee and UT System Office of General Counsel provided assurance that UTSA would not have to rewrite its policy since changes were only made to parts of the policy that involve termination and non-renewal, areas that the UTSA policy does not address.

Dr. Travis reported that the field of study issue remains a concern to faculty. The issue stems from legislation passed in the 1997 legislative session on course credit for students transferring from community colleges. It states that if the Coordinating Board develops a field of study curriculum that is offered at a community college, students who transfer that curriculum to a four-year institution cannot be required to take additional mathematics courses at the freshman or sophomore level. A bill was introduced during the 1999 legislative session changing the wording of the policy from "the Coordinating Board shall develop curriculum" to "the Coordinating Board may develop a field of transfer curriculum." Unfortunately the bill was not passed. The System FAC will collect data and work with the Coordinating Board to determine the exact problem and possible alternative ways to deal with it.

Dr. Travis reported that the Health Affairs Committee of the System FAC has been addressing the issue of individual faculty and staff members experiencing numerous problems with health insurance. She asked that any faculty with particular problems related to their insurance, contact her or Dr. James Schneider as they continue working with Health Affairs representatives at UT System and the Employees Group Insurance Committee. The System FAC Health Affairs Committee has also discussed Public Law 10577, which allows public access to all data from research that receives funds at non-profit institutions. The law does protect marketable research and protects data from peer journals but it does not protect participant confidentiality in any research conducted using federal funds at any public institution. This lack of confidentiality makes it extremely difficult for faculty at the medical institutions to conduct their research. The System FAC plans to request assistance from UT System Administration in dealing with the legislation.

The Faculty Quality Committee of the System FAC is studying privacy issues and will look not only at policies but also at practices at the component institutions. Practices include posted mail, e-mail, telephones, faxes, campus mail, office files and voice mail. Specific issues are how faculty and staff are informed of privacy policies, who authorizes monitoring of faculty and staff, who authorizes confiscation of equipment, and who notifies the employee.

The System FAC will continue to monitor periodic performance evaluations on the component campuses. The figures submitted for 1998-99 by administration on the nine academic campuses show that 386 faculty were evaluated. Thirty-three of those were identified as needing remediation or further development. At UTSA, eighteen faculty members were reviewed and all received satisfactory evaluations.

## C. Committees

Nominating Committee - Dr. Tom Ricento, Chair

Dr. Ricento conducted the annual elections for the University Assembly Committees: Human Resources Committee, Student Life and Activities Committee, and the Nominating Committee. He explained that the

Nominating Committee does not slate the ballot for the Administrative and Agenda Committee. The practice is, instead, to slate the ballot with the newly elected members of the Assembly from the college for which there is a vacancy on the committee. In the case of a student member, all the newly elected students are placed on the ballot.

## POST-MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

### *Administrative and Agenda Committee*

President - Ricardo Romo

Secretary - Betty Travis

CoB - Sandra Welch

CoFAH - Louis Mendoza

CoSBS - James Schneider

CoSE - Deborah Armstrong

Staff - Jane Findling

Student - Xochitl Yanez

Parliamentarian - Michael Kelly

### *Nominating Committee*

Jane Findling - Staff Representative

James Gallagher - CoFAH

Kellye Jones - CoB

Thomas Ricento - CoSBS

Oscar Van Auken - CoSE

Xochitl Yanez - Student Government Representative

### *Human Resources Committee*

Russell Briner - CoB

Eugene Dowdy - CoFAH

Keith Fairchild - CoB

Dorothy Flannagan - CoSBS

James McDonald - CoSBS

Betty Travis - CoSE

andrew Tsin - CoSE

### *Student Life and Activities Committee*

Raul Aranovich - CoFAH

Ron Ayers - CoB

Emily Gaston - Graduate Council Student Representative

Suzanne Moore - CoSBS

George Negrete - CoSE

Leila Slimane - CoFAH Student Representative

Xochitl Yanez - Student Government Representative

## D. Other

### 1. Chair of the Faculty Senate - Dr. James Schneider

Dr. Schneider thanked Dr. Romo for meeting with the Faculty Senate and said that the Senate is looking forward to working with the President in a productive year. There is a real sense among the Senators that several pending issues need to be resolved. He said the Senate also has a sense of optimism that perhaps more can be accomplished in the near future than in any recent period.

Dr. Schneider announced that Dr. Patricia Harris was elected Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate. He reported that the Senate has an agenda for the year that includes numerous very important issues. At the first meeting of the Senate, the agenda was reviewed, new members were provided information

on the status of the issues and resolutions were passed.

He reported that the Senate passed a resolution requesting that Dr. Romo respond to a previous request for information relating to women's issues.

Dr. Schneider stated that the question of bylaws and shared governance has the greatest potential impact on the Faculty Senate. He informed new members of the group that a proposed new structure for governance, presented to the University Assembly at its May 4, 1999 meeting, had been referred back to the Faculty Senate and other affected constituencies. The Faculty Senate, at its September 14, 1999, meeting passed a resolution requesting that the President revisit the issue of governance by reconstituting the University Assembly Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws and Shared Governance. The Committee would revisit the issues, building on the work of the previous Committee, with the idea of presenting a proposal to the campus as quickly as possible.

Dr. Schneider reported that the Faculty Senate passed a resolution to request that the Provost accept the Report on Recommendations Related to Academic Restructuring and inform the Senate of the status of the policy on restructuring. There is a committee being formed that will study the issue of restructuring, not simply with regard to the procedural issues in the Senate's proposal, but will also make specific recommendations for restructuring.

Dr. Schneider notified the Assembly that two ad hoc committees would be appointed by the Senate - a committee to work with the Office of the Provost on the Faculty Salary Compression Model and a committee to review the student evaluation instrument.

Dr. Schneider reported that the Faculty Senate had passed a resolution on the Faculty Grievance Policy reaffirming the use of the phrase "contractual rights" in Section V.A.2.

He reported that the events surrounding the Division of Mathematics and Statistics were discussed at a Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate. While no specific actions were taken, it is apparent that the issue will remain a matter of concern for faculty.

Dr. Patricia Harris asked if Dr. Schneider had any information on the appointment of a restructuring committee.

Dr. Schneider reported that the following members had been appointed: Blandina Cardenas, Chair, Deborah Armstrong, Donde Ashmos, Ron Ayers, Patricia Harris, Steve Levitt, Louis Mendoza, George Negrete, Thomas Ricento, David Johnson and Rudy Sandoval.

## 2. President of Student Government - Ms. Xochitl Yanez

Ms. Xochitl Yanez reported that Student Government had reviewed their structure over the past summer. The subsequent restructuring of Student Government for this year is a reflection of the University. Student Government now has a chair position for every vice presidential position at the University: Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, University Advancement, and Business Affairs. When a student has a concern in a particular area, they can contact the appropriate Student Government Chair.

Ms. Yanez reported that the focus for Student Government in 1999-2000 will be to increase student awareness and student involvement at all campuses, particularly with University committees. Students serving on various standing committees can provide a better understanding of the students' perspective.

Ms. Yanez said that Student Government had co-sponsored an event on October 5, 1999 during which Senator Judith Zaffarini spoke to the campus. They are currently working on increasing the awareness of the student body about Proposition 17, which is on the ballot for the November 2, 1999

election. Members of Student Government are working in different departments using differing strategies to better educate the students about the importance of the proposition.

Ms. Yanez reported that UTSA has three student representatives on the UT System Student Advisory Committee. This committee meets three times a semester and makes recommendations to UT System on student related issues. The group has four committees: Student Rights, Minority and Multicultural, Academic Affairs and Tuition and Fees. Currently, the Student Rights Committee is studying the needs of non-traditional students and campus safety. The Tuition and Fees Committee is reviewing financial aid distribution and budget allocation for programs. The Academic Affairs Committee is looking at course evaluations and Multicultural Programs is working to increase language and cultural awareness. They are also attempting to increase international student involvement at the UT System components.

Ms. Yanez said that 1999-2000 would be a promotional year for Student Government. They plan to go out and get the students. She encouraged members of the Assembly to contact her or any representatives of Student Government with questions, concerns or any ideas on how Student Government could work with University departments.

#### IV. Consent Calendar: Faculty Senate

- A. A resolution reaffirming Faculty Senate support for the language in proposed revision to the UTSA Faculty Grievance Policy including the phrase "contractual rights" in Section V.A.2. Resolution approved.
- B. Recommend approval of the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Requirements Report on Recommendations Related to Academic Restructuring. Report approved.

#### V. Unfinished Business

Dr. Romo asked for nominations from the floor for the Parliamentarian.  
Dr. Michael Kelly was nominated and elected to serve as Parliamentarian.

#### VI. New Business

None

#### VII. Questions to the President

Dr. Travis asked about the status of the Search Committee for the Provost.

Dr. Romo said that a committee had been appointed and had started conducting meetings. The membership includes the five Senators recommended by the Faculty Senate. Dr. Brenda Claiborne was appointed as Chair. The charge to the Committee is to either recommend a national search for a Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs or to recommend that the Interim Provost be appointed as Provost. The Committee was requested to make a recommendation by the first week of November.

Dr. Richardson asked for information related to the report of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) on the Division of Engineering. Dr. Bailey said ABET will conduct another site visit during Fall 2001 during which the Division must show cause to remain accredited. The entire report will be distributed soon.

Dr. Richardson said it was his understanding that several computers and unit workstations, including the main reserve server, had security problems during Summer 1999. As a result, a security team was hired to attempt to determine how and who was doing the hacking. He asked about the result of the team's work, the cost and how long they were on campus. He also asked if the university was now more secure.

Dr. Bailey confirmed that a team of outside consultants was on campus but information on costs and results would have to be obtained from the Vice President for Business Affairs. While there was potential for serious problems, the university was fortunate that nothing serious occurred. Dr. Bailey said he would provide additional

details when he receives them.

Dr. Raul Aaronvich expressed concern that faculty are not consulted or even informed when changes are made to University publications, such as the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs and the Handbook of Operating Procedures. An issue of particular concern is the policy on who is eligible to vote on tenure and promotions. He asked who has the responsibility for making such changes and what mechanisms are in place to consult faculty.

Dr. Romo replied that the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will be asked to address issues related to the Catalogs. The Handbook of Operating Procedures is handled by the President's Office and the appropriate persons will be asked to ensure that the campus is informed regarding whatever changes are made.

Dr. Schneider asked for the timeframe for the restructuring committee to present their recommendations.

Dr. Romo said that the deadline is December 15, 1999. He added that the charge to the committee is to solicit wide faculty input and to make recommendations to the President as to 1) whether or not reorganization of the University's academic structure is essential or desirable. If the answer is in the affirmative, 2) what are the University's academic structural problems and what practical restructuring solutions are necessary; 3) what are the management organizational problems at the division, college and university level and what practical restructuring solutions are necessary.

#### VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Comments or questions to [spottorff@utsa.edu](mailto:spottorff@utsa.edu)

Last updated: Sept. 1, 2005