

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

## DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDING OF THE GENERAL FACULTY AND

## DOCUMENTS and PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

The minutes of the University Assembly meeting of May 1, 2001, 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.

Mansour El-Kikhia, Secretary  
The General Faculty

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF MAY 1, 2001

The fourth regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2000–2001 was held in room 4.03.08, John Peace Library Building, on May 1, 2001, at 3:30 p.m. with Dr. Ricardo Romo presiding.

#### I. ATTENDANCE

**PRESENT:** Rosalie Ambrosino, Bill Angrove, Raul Aranovich, Deborah Armstrong, Paula Avena, Roy Ayers, Guy Bailey, John Balog, John Barnett, Mark Blizard, John Bretting, Bruce Bublitz, Alan Craven, Mansour El-Kikhia, Keith Fairchild, Shane Foley, Patricia Harris, Dwight Henderson, Cynthia Katz, Michael F. Kelly, David Larson, Louis Mendoza, Thomas Ricento, A. C. Rogers, Ricardo Romo, Kent Rush, Deborah Schwartz-Kates, Powell Trotti, III, Raydel Tullous, Gilberta Turner, Diane Walz

**ABSENT:** Sos Agaian (excused), Christine Alvear, Gerard Barloco, Russell Briner (excused), Blandina Cardenas, Ruben Cordova, Wanda Hedrick, Robert Hiromoto, Kellye Jones, James McDonald, George Negrete, F.A. Norman, Christina Pigott (excused), Walter B. Richardson, Jr., William Scouten, C.S. Shih, R. K. Smith, Sandy Speed (excused), Maria Elizabeth Stone, Jude Valdez (excused), Anthony Van Reusen, Arturo Vega, Jesse Zapata

**Total members present: 31**

**Total members absent: 23**

II. Minutes of the March 6, 2001 Meeting were approved.

#### III. Reports

##### A. President – Dr. Ricardo Romo

1. Dr. Romo reported that Dr. Rosalie Ambrosino had been appointed as the Vice President for Student Affairs. He applauded her courage in accepting such a major responsibility.
2. Dr. Romo reported that three proposals for new Ph.D. programs would be on the agenda for the next UT System Board of Regents meeting. All three are expected to be approved since the programs are consistent with the Board of Regents' plans for closing the gap in critical areas of higher education. The addition of these programs would bring the total number of Ph.D. degrees to seven, advancing UTSA's mission to become a premier institution in the region. He stated that UTSA must continue to strive to enhance its reputation and work toward its goal of developing technology and serving as an economic engine in the San Antonio area.
3. Dr. Romo provided an update on legislative issues stating that there were several key bills being discussed that would impact the University. These include legislation that would increase tuition and

provide funding for a Center for Excellence and a Life Sciences Institute.

4. Dr. Romo reported that on-campus interviews were being conducted for candidates for the position of Dean of the College of Engineering. He noted that the three candidates were all very impressive individuals and the search committee should be commended.
5. Dr. Romo stated that groundbreaking ceremonies would be held early in the Fall semester for the Academic Three Building and the Wellness and Recreation Center.

B. Secretary – Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

1. Dr. El-Kikhia said that there needs to be a committee appointed to review the current University Assembly Bylaws for relevance to the University's new academic structure. He said it would be important to understand what kind of body the Assembly should become.
2. Dr. El-Kikhia expressed concern about a memorandum he had received stating that the Xerox copiers were to be removed. This issue came as a surprise, enforcing the entire concept that the Assembly should be a forum where such issues could be discussed.

Mr. David Larson responded that meetings about the copier situation were scheduled with the academic units to discuss the issue and come up with a workable solution.

Dr. Romo thanked Dr. El-Kikhia for his leadership as Secretary of the General Faculty/University Assembly during the past year.

Dr. Tom Ricento asked if the contract with Aramark would be renewed? He stated that numerous complaints had been voiced about the hours of operations, the service, and the value of the product. He asked if there was ever an opportunity of faculty, students, and staff to provide input to the administration with regard to their perception of the services offered or any suggestions for changes.

Mr. Larson responded that UTSA and Aramark had been in negotiations for several months over the existing contract. He said that there is a Business Services Advisory Committee, and the membership includes faculty, staff, and students. This Committee meets on a regular basis to provide advice on the operations of a number of UTSA's contractual arrangements, such as the bookstore contract and food service contract. Any changes Aramark has made to hours of operations or prices have been reviewed by the Business Services Committee. Mr. Larson noted that the lack of a board plan remains an underlying problem that makes the Aramark contract less viable at UTSA than on other campuses. Another issue is that two-thirds of UTSA's catering business is furnished by suppliers other than Aramark. He said that the University is trying to deal with service aspects and still be responsible within the confines of what kind of money could be expected to be generated from Aramark to cover maintenance and utility costs.

C. Committees

None

D. Other

1. Report from the Chair of the Faculty Senate – Dr. Patricia Harris

Dr. Harris provided an update on the work of the Faculty Senate since the previous Assembly meeting:

The Academic Policy and Requirements Committee proposed changes to the Senate bylaws.

- These include proposed changes to apportionment of representatives; terms of office; and committees. There will be a special meeting on May 4, 2001, so that Senators can finish reviewing the proposals and vote on the wording of the ballot to be voted on 30 days later.
- Because the bylaws approval process takes so long, the Senate requested that President Romo order new elections in his capacity as Presiding Officer of the Assembly. That is, new elections could not be held under existing Assembly bylaws, nor could they be held under proposed Senate bylaws except after a very long delay.

- Under the proposed apportionment, there would be a representative from each department, division and school.

The Teaching Effectiveness and Development Committee delivered recommendations regarding the evaluation of teaching effectiveness. These included a recommendation regarding the weight that student evaluations should have in the overall teaching score and other means for evaluating teaching effectiveness.

- The Committee recommended that alternate means to evaluate teaching (other than student evaluations) should be developed at the division level.
- The Committee initially recommended that the student evaluations count for 40 percent of the teaching score; this was modified to no more than 50 percent. The wording in the resolution in Attachment A is intended to convey this meaning.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Course Evaluation Instrument recommended the adoption of a new student course evaluation instrument

- The Committee reviewed four instruments in depth. These included the Kansas State Idea System, the Purdue Cafeteria System, the University of Washington Instructional Assessment System, and the Aleamoni Course/Instructor Evaluation Assessment System.
- The Committee conducted a thorough instrument-specific analysis of items and objectives before selecting the IDEA.
- The Committee made additional recommendations regarding the application and interpretation of student evaluations. These are provided in Attachment B.

The Ad Hoc Committee on International Programs investigated the quality of services to international students and faculty, and concluded that the University should reconstitute an Office of International Programs.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Salary Compression has sent a survey to the General Faculty, requesting input regarding the assumptions, scope and data to be used in future compression exercises.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Merit Proposal has completed its work reviewing the proposed merit evaluation system developed by the Provost's Office. The Committee will present its work to the Senate at a Special Meeting on May 4; however, some of the Committee's revisions have already been incorporated in a later revision by the Provost's Office.

Mr. Shane Foley asked if any additional information regarding the creation of an Office of International Studies was available. Dr. Raul Aranovich responded that the Ad Hoc Committee had basically found out that there was no centralized office where items such as Visas, student exchange programs and dealing with foreign faculty and postdoctoral students were being handled. The Committee recommended that the best way to solve these problems would be to have one person responsible for all the different aspects of international affairs at UTSA.

## 2. Report from the President of Student Government – Mr. Shane Foley

1. Mr. Foley reported that Student Government elections had recently been conducted. New officers are: President, Shelli Lyons; Vice President, Melissa Killen; Corresponding Secretary, Katie Frye; Recording Secretary, Stephanie Grewe; and, Treasurer, Jason Mata.
2. Mr. Foley reported on issues under consideration by The University of Texas System Student Advisory Committee:
  - Other component campuses also have problems with international issues. One recommendation made by the student committees was to have an informational workshop and invite one individual from each component. This would provide more of a system-wide resource for individuals dealing with Visas and other issues related to

- international programs.
  - The Student Advisory Council recommended that a student member be added to the Board of Regents.
  - The Student Advisory Council found that most UT System components have not been following the Board of Regents' policy and State Law regarding English proficiency of faculty.
3. Mr. Foley said that he had met with Dr. Patricia Harris, Faculty Senate Chair, in an attempt to establish a relationship between Student Government and the Faculty Senate. He had encouraged next year's Student Government President to meet with the new Chair of the Faculty Senate to discuss any issues on which they might be able to work together.
  4. Mr. Foley stated that he was very pleased with the selection of Dr. Ambrosino as the Vice President for Student Affairs. The students look forward to working with Dr. Ambrosino in the future.
  5. Mr. Foley said that a continued challenge for Student Government would be to increase the students' role in institutional decision-making. Student Government feels that decisions are being made that leave out an important voice – the students.
  6. Mr. Foley provided updates on issues he had reported on at the last Assembly meeting:
    - The visibility of Student Government has greatly improved and students are beginning to recognize its existence.
    - A 24-hour study facility will be available in the west wing of the University Center beginning with the Fall 2001 semester.
    - Student Life Offices will now have extended hours at least twice each week to meet the needs of evening students.
    - Signs have been put up to inform people of the University's Smoking Policy.
    - An ATM has been installed in the JPL Building.
    - Mr. Foley said that he had enjoyed working to provide changes during the past year and would continue working with Student Government to help make additional positive changes in the University.

#### IV. Consent Calendar: Faculty Senate

1. Recommend Approval of Resolution of the Faculty Senate Teaching Effectiveness and Development Committee – APPROVED
2. Recommend Approval of Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Course Evaluation Instrument – APPROVED
3. Recommend Approval of Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology – APPROVED
4. Recommend Approval of Ph.D. in Music Psychology – APPROVED

#### V. Unfinished Business

None

#### VI. New Business

1. Dr. Romo said that he would work with Drs. El-Kikhia and Harris to appoint a committee to review the existing University Assembly Bylaws and make recommendations for revision.

#### VII. Questions to the President

#### VIII. Meeting Adjourned.

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

Last updated: Aug 30, 2005