

# 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 October 9, 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 October 9, 2001

The first regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2001–2002 was held in room 4.03.08, John Peace Library Building, on October 9, 2001, at 3:00 p.m. with Dr. Ricardo Romo presiding.

#### I. ATTENDANCE

**PRESENT:** Kristoffer Alstatt, Rosalie Ambrosino, Roy Ayers, Guy Bailey, John Barnett, John Bretting, Bruce Bublitz, John Clark, Ruben Cordova, Alan Craven, Tiffanee G. Donowick, Mansour El-Kikhia, Sanaa A. Gomez, James Groff, Vic Heller, Laura Hernandez, Paul Jacobs, Michael F. Kelly, David Larson, Carole Anne Leezer, Rafael A. Lopez-Mobilia, Shellie Lyons, Raquel Marquez, Kenneth Masden, James McDonald, George Negrete, Zorica Pantic-Tanner, Frank Pino, A.C. Rogers, Ricardo Romo, John Rundin, Ron Rutherford, Deborah Schwartz-Kates, C.S. Shih, Woodie Spivey, Minghe Sun, Powell Trotti III, Jude Valdez, Kenton Wilkinson, Weining Zhang.

**ABSENT:** Bill Angrove, Deborah Armstrong, Gerard Barloco, Greg Becker, Fred Bonner, Steven Boyd, Felecia Briscoe, Stephen C. Brown, Blandina Cardenas, Shane Foley (excused), Ni (Phil) He (excused), Melvin Laracey, Shellie Lyons (excused), G.V.S. Raju (excused), Thomas Ricento (excused) Kent Rush (excused), Mike Ryan, Todd Ryska, William Scouten (excused) John Wallace, Jesse Zapata

**Total members present: 39**

**Total members absent: 22**

II. Minutes of the July 25, 2001, Meeting were approved.

III. Reports

A. President – Dr. Ricardo Romo

1. Dr. Romo thanked the Committee for their assistance in getting through the unusual beginning of the school year with the September 11 national tragedy. Results of the efforts of a lot of individuals included evacuation plans and interactions and communications with the UT System. Dr. Romo also thanked Dr. Ambrosino for her efforts in dealing with the students to assure them we really were concerned about their safety – in this instance the International Students. The campus behaved in an exemplary fashion. There were numerous events including prayer moments, remembrance movements, and moments of silence. Dr. Romo also recognized the Faculty's loss of time and thanked them for their involvement in the "teach-ins."
2. Dr. Romo reported that the school year began with new programs and new departments. He also anticipates that there will be work to be done in creating new Master's and PHD Degrees.

3. Dr. Romo reported that UTSA reached a record enrollment; 50 students short of 20,000; record enrollment in terms of graduate students, over 600 International students enrolled from over 64 different countries. Previous projections on enrollment were that UTSA would be at 20,000 students by the year 2005. In addition, the University hired a record number of 63 faculty (up from 43). Recruiting will continue.
4. Dr. Romo provided an update on the growing pains of parking and new buildings. David Larsen assured that there would be 500 additional new parking spaces by next fall.
5. Dr. Romo stated that relative to the fundraising efforts the university fell short on their goal of raising \$5M by \$1.5M BUT MET OUR GOAL WITH \$6M raised for other purposes in both brick and endowments. In November a plan will be presented to the Board of Regents to construct a giant bioscience and engineering building with a goal of approximately \$82M.

B. Secretary – Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

1. Dr. El-Kikhia opened by thanking the President, Provost Bailey, and Dr. Ambrosino for work they did through the time of the crisis. To date the United States has had approximately 50,000 documented complaints from Arab Americans and there were only 4 actual complaints from San Antonio.

Dr. El-Kikhia reported that we are moving to a new system in the near future. There is a need for a new Assembly. A committee has been formed to write the bylaws for the new Assembly. Recommendations should be sent to Dr. El-Kikhia or Sandy. He also noted that elections

C. Senate Chair – Dr. Ron Ayers

1. Dr. Ayers reminded that the first scheduled meeting of the Faculty Senate was delayed until September 25, 2001 due to the September 11 tragic events.
2. Dr. Ayers reported the accomplishments at the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:
  - a. The Senate elected the membership of its committees
  - b. Jim Groff was voted Chair-Elect
  - c. The Senate passed a resolution urging the Chair be granted a course release each semester rather than monetary compensation for holding the position.
  - d. A report was presented by Dr. Richard Diam regarding the proposed Honors College
  - e. The Chair appointed an Adhoc Committee on International Programs chaired by Dr. James McDonald
3. Dr. Ayers reminded the Senate of the special Senate meeting on October 26 to re-write the Senate Bylaws reflecting the new departmental structure. New bylaws should be available in November.
4. Dr. Ayers provided an overview of the UT System Faculty Advisory Council meetings he attended in Austin which provided the opportunity to learn about various issues and initiatives at UT component institutions:
  - a. Brief report by Dr. Travis on Academic Receivership at UTSA
  - b. Two (2) resolutions were passed – most important relates to receivership.
  - c. Campus issues of changes in domestic partnership and foreign languages were discussed.

Dr. Ayers closed his report by requesting all the Senators to read the 16 postings he made to the Faculty/Senate on-line bulletin board for the purpose of getting an idea what to do with the bylaws before the October

D. Committees

None

E. Other

1. No report from the Student Government – Ms. Shelly Lyons was absent.

IV. Consent Calendar: Faculty Senate

1. Recommend approval of MS Degree in Statistics (Attachment A) – APPROVED

V. Unfinished Business

None

## VI. New Business

1. Dr. Eisenberg and Mr. Daniel Escobar gave a report on a proposal for an honors College within the current Honors Program. Dr. Eisenberg presented the following:
  - No action required today
  - The proposal for the Honors College is in committee at the Faculty/Senate for consideration
  - Making Assembly aware at this point in the planning process
  - Dr. Eisenberg provided an overview of the process:
1. Planning began a little over a year ago at an administrative level.
2. An Honors Program provides the following for the University:
  - a. Greater institutional identity
  - b. Greater institutional recognition
  - c. Greater institutional visibility
  - d. Increase quality of students
  - e. Increase the quality of the program
  - f. Proposing some curricular changes
  - g. More demand on students to take more hours in the Honors College
  - h. Make International Program a more central piece of Honors College- proposed 3 week mini-session in January or August
  - i. Plan to increase scholarship support for students depending largely on fund raising campaigns
  - j. Discussing fast-track Master's Programs (5 year program that ends with a Master's Degree)
  - k. Dr. Diam has been presenting the program largely to Deans and Department Chairs.
    1. Proposing program to the Faculty/Senate
3. An Honors Program provides the students a view of how the program works which in turn:
  - a. Makes the program more attractive to students
  - b. Students can see where the program fits into the University.
4. At the Administrative level, the program provides a greater institutional commitment.
5. Program process:
  - a. Decision can be made in-house to transform current honors Program into an Honors College because:
    - i. No new degrees planned in Honors College there is no need to take the plan to the Coordinating Board.
6. Honors College design:
  - a. A college that skirts all of the other 6 colleges
  - b. Draw students from those 6 colleges
  - c. Students who are members of the Honors college would have a place in 2 colleges
    - i. Their academic major
    - ii. The Honors College itself.
    - iii. The student's degree would be awarded out of those 2 colleges – example:
      - BS Degree in Biology in the Honors College (Honors would be tacked on beyond what the student majors in)
  - d. Program very similar to current Honors program.

## Questions:

1. Is there and foreign language requirement for study since students going abroad?

That's a good question. There have been discussions but we haven't put it into a requirement for the Honors College:

- It's not currently a requirement in the Honors Program
- It's a complicated issue trying to attract students from all majors and many don't have elective hours for foreign language

- Could give preference to students who had met a foreign language requirement appropriate for the program
  - Looking for a lot of funding issues
  - Hoping that the Faculty/Senate appointed committee will address
2. Are you advocating that International programs essentially be centered within the Honors College or are you thinking of an International Program initiative that serves elsewhere actually with the Honors Program?

We are envisioning that we would have:

- Our own International Emphasis
  - Would work with International Programs to make that happen for our students.
  - We have not talked about how that happens in a context in which there really is no office of International Programs.
  - We will have to see what the Faculty/Senate wants to do and what we need to do to make what we hope to have happen – happen in that context.
3. In the Master's Program does a student bypass a degree?

No. Most 5-year Master's Programs (fast-tracked) students get a Bachelors and a Masters simultaneously at the end of 5 years by:

- Increasing the numbers of hours taken in a give semester
  - Combining the way graduate hours are counted.
  - Doesn't apply to all areas.
4. With regards to the International Programs are there any other plans besides the 3 weeks abroad?

We want to work with the International Programs to make the 3-week course happen for as many students as possible.

5. What do you expect to achieve in 3 weeks?
- Every student to have a semester or full year abroad (no ideal but 1 year is not practical for most UTSA students.
  - Located in 1 city in 1 country for 3 weeks
  - Students explore outside the city
  - 3- week mini-courses overseas in University settings, at times when Universities not using their housing (another way to make their trip relatively inexpensive.)
6. There are a lot of exchange programs:
- Students pay the same tuition here as he/she would in another country.

Those programs are available for many students at UTSA.

- UTSA needs to expand those opportunities so there are more choices for students within those consortium agreements.
- Most students can't go a semester without working
- You can't work when you are on an exchange agreement

Therefore we need to have other kinds of opportunities for students that fit the reality of their lives.

7. This is a wonderful idea but there are major difficulties:
- University has to decide what kind of an International Program it wants
  - No System today
  - Foreign Language is necessary – must insist on foreign language requirement
  - Reconstruct International Program office with all related offices under it

I think that a 3-week program is better than nothing for students. We would have to address practical

issues in student's lives. They would still be enriched with the 3 weeks abroad.

8. I think that an Honors College is a way to attract highly attractive students in very competitive markets. What you are essentially saying is that International Programs are a Marketing tool to convince students to participate in the Honors Program.

Yes. Part of our goal in having the Honors College is to attract top students to the institution.

9. I applaud adding the International component. I think this component should be available to all students.

I assume we will have the infrastructure to allow Faculty to help develop these kinds of programs.

10. How can we charge the students for costly programs? You have to prepare for the money. It's not easy and we have to think about it.

11. Dan: We will continue to work on this. Basically, what we are trying to do is:

- Provide some additional options for students.
- Paid Internship programs
- Reach down to younger age groups
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Early high school age students
- Currently have 43 students enrolled from SA Independent School District in Advanced Placement Programs (AP)
- Classes in English
- Calculus
- Students go back to their home campuses in the pm.

12. I had an opportunity to host events with Dr. Eisenberg at our home for high school students – 140 people in total.

- AP courses very popular
- Trained 700 AP teachers on campus this summer

Please take the message back to Dr. Diam that when we recruit kids from these schools and these teachers have taught on our campuses. They can carry the message that they have been to UTSA and it's a good school.

13. Dr. Pino: Issues brought up

- Foreign Languages – will take up with Senate and draw issues
  - Concerns the entire university
- BA program in French without a tenured/tenured track faculty
  - ? The University's Accreditation at stake or in jeopardy?

## VII. Questions to the President

Need Assurance about accreditation – are we following the guidelines?

I will ask Dean Craven to visit with the Provost and review the situation so we can make a determination this year to commit to recruit faculty if they want to do that. A lot will depend on a number of factors – 1 being the demand.

## VIII. Meeting Adjourned.

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

Last updated: Sept. 1, 2005