

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 December 11, 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 DECEMBER 11, 2001

The second regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2001–2002 was held in room 4.03.08, John Peace Library Building, on December 11, 2001, at 3:30 p.m. with Dr. Ricardo Romo presiding.

I. ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Kristoffer Alstatt, Rosalie Ambrosino, Bill Angrove, Ron Ayers, Gerard Barloco, John Barnett, Steven Boyd, Felecia Briscoe, Bruce Bublitz, Blandina Cardenas, Jan Clark, Mansour El-Kikhia, Shane Foley, Michael F. Kelly, Melvin Laracey, David Larson, Rafael A. Lopez-Mobilia, Shelli Lyons, Raquel Marquez, Kenneth Masden, James McDonald, Zorica Pantic-Tanner, Frank Pino, G.V.S. Raju, Thomas Ricento, Ricardo Romo, Kent Rush, Michael Ryan, Woodie Spivey, Minghe Sun, Powell Trotti III, Jude Valdez, John Wallace, Kenton Wilkinson, Weining Zhang

ABSENT: Deborah Armstrong, Guy Bailey, Greg Becker, Fred Bonner, John Bretting, Stephen C. Brown, Ruben Cordova, Alan Craven, Tiffanee Donowick, Sanaa Gomez, James Groff, Ni He, Victor Heller (excused), Laura Hernandez, Paul Jacobs, Carole Anne Leezer, George Negrete, Walter B. Richardson, Jr., A. C. Rogers, John Rundin, Ron Rutherford (excused), Todd Ryska, Deborah Schwartz-Kates (excused), William Scouten, C.S. Shih (excused), Jesse Zapata

Total members present: 35

Total members absent: 26

II. Minutes of the October 9, 2001, Meeting were approved.

III. Reports

A. President – Dr. Ricardo Romo

1. Dr. Romo requested the addition of an item to the Faculty Senate Consent Calendar: *Recommend approval of a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering*. Motion made and approved to add this item to the Order of Business.
2. Dr. Romo thanked the members of the Assembly for their participation in the State Employees Charitable Contribution campaign. He reported that total contributions from UTSA employees are expected to be \$112,000, an increase of approximately five percent over last year.
3. Dr. Romo reported on academic program proposals currently in process. The Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, which is being developed as a joint project with the Health Science Center, continues to move forward. There are also Ph.D. proposals in Cellular and Molecular Biology and Music

Psychology in process.

4. Dr. Romo reported that UTSA received additional funding for a new Science, Technology, and Engineering Building in the amount of \$19 million. This funding will be added to the \$22 million in tuition revenue bonds approved last summer. The University has received three very significant grants: \$1 million from the Brackenridge Foundation for development of the Ph.D. in English; \$500,000 from SBC, the largest corporate gift ever to any university; and \$500,000 from the Frost Family to be used toward the creation of mathematics and science teaching programs. UTSA has submitted a grant proposal to Congress for funding to redevelop computer capacity. The request for \$5 million is moving along well. The Wellness Center and Childcare Center are under construction and expected to be completed in early 2003. Construction of the \$52 million Academic III Building is expected to begin in February 2002 and be completed in Spring 2004. The Downtown Annex is progressing and the Economic Development Center expects to occupy new offices during Spring 2003.
5. Dr. Romo reported that UTSA now has an Office of Emergency Preparedness headed by Police Chief George Powers. This office will consider various ways to handle emergencies, such as a reverse 911 notification system. A system of this type could do thousands of calls simultaneously. Should there be the need to evacuate the buildings on campus, every office would receive a phone call notifying them of the situation within minutes.
6. Dr. Romo informed the Assembly that he and the Vice President for Business Affairs have been working with the UT System to receive approval for new student housing. The master plan estimates 2000 beds will be added by 2007.

B. Secretary – Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

1. Dr. El-Kikhia reported on item discussed at the UT System Faculty Advisory Council meeting:
 - Mike Warden has been appointed as the Public Affairs Director, responsible for raising the statute of the UT System nationally. Robert Estrada has been appointed as a Regent.
 - The UT Telecampus, which offered two programs in Fall 1999, has grown to 12 programs this year with more programs are expected to be added for next year.
 - Health insurance is expected to increase approximately 25% next year.
 - Within the entire system, the Post Tenure Review process identified 350 faculty as satisfactory and four as unsatisfactory.
2. Dr. El-Kikhia reported that he had received calls from faculty expressing concerns about the dean of the College of Business. He asked Dr. Romo to look into the matter and, possibly, set up a committee to determine if there were issues that should be addressed.
3. Dr. El-Kikhia provided information on the proposal for revised bylaws of the University Assembly. He noted that the ad hoc committee that worked on this proposal had representatives from all areas. In an attempt to make the new Assembly truly representative of all of the campus voices, the document proposes eight members for each group – administration, faculty, staff, and students would be represented equally. The proposal was presented for consideration only, not as a report for a vote.

Dr. Michael Kelly asked if the members would be selected by appointment or election? If they are to be elected, how would the elections be conducted? Are all members going to have voting status? Why is the Secretary of the General Faculty, the highest elected office of a faculty member, no longer a member of the Assembly?

Dr. El-Kikhia responded that all would have equal voting status. The position of the Secretary of the General Faculty is no longer needed within the Assembly but might be considered as a position to be included in the membership of the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Ronald Ayers said that the Senate anticipates the need for changes to its bylaws and suggested that representatives from the two groups should conference on the proposed bylaws.

Dr. El-Kikhia said that he was requesting feedback on the proposal and all recommendations would be taken into account.

Dr. Thomas Ricento noted that the issue needs to be resolved no later than March 2002 in order for the bodies to continue operating. He suggested that a committee or subcommittee with representatives of the Assembly and the Senate be appointed to determine the issues and make recommendations to resolve them.

Dr. Blandina Cardenas agreed that a committee should be formed and charged with resolving any differences between the two sets of bylaws and that this should not be a discussion between two individuals.

Dr. Ricento requested that a comparison between the current and the proposed bylaws be provided for consideration by the Assembly members.

Dr. El-Kikhia agreed to have the comparison document prepared and sent to the membership. He asked that any recommendations or feedback on the proposal be sent to governance@utsa.edu no later than January 15, 2002.

C. Senate Chair – Dr. Ron Ayers

1. Dr. Ayers reported that the Faculty Senate had unanimously passed a resolution in support of academic freedom that commends President Romo and the entire UTSA administration for their support.
2. Dr. Ayers announced that Dr. James Groff, Chair-elect of the Faculty Senate resigned from the University Assembly/Faculty Senate. A new chair-elect will need to be elected by the Senate during the Spring 2002 semester.
3. Dr. Ayers reported that other issues being considered by the Faculty Senate include revision of Senate bylaws, international programs, domestic partner benefits, and the evaluation of administrators.
4. Dr. Ayers said that the Provost had asked the Senate whether funding should be provided for compression and equity purposes or should these monies be rolled into merit pay. The Senators who responded voted for a compression study by a two-thirds majority. An ad hoc committee will be formed as soon as possible.
5. Dr. Ayers suggested that the issue of civility on campus should be studied. An uncivil behavior can produce a hostile work environment, which is certainly counterproductive to the achievement of the University's shared mission and may even be illegal. The Senate has heard from a significant number of faculty that a civility policy that applied across the board, including administrators, would be useful to ensure the smooth functioning of UTSA. A well-crafted civility policy that protects free speech and academic freedom would reduce the number of grievances and lawsuits. He intends to bring this issue before the Senate at the next meeting.

D. Report from the Student Government – Ms. Shelli Lyons

1. Ms. Lyons reported that Student Government had passed a resolution to support a name change for the University Center. The students think that a name change to Student Center or Student Union would more accurately reflect the role of students in that building since it would not exist without student support and student money. The students would like to see a change not only in the name of the building, but also in the attitude toward the building and the role it plays in the student community.
2. Ms. Lyons reported that the Student Government Executive Board had approved a new student government constitution, which will be presented to the Student General Assembly in January 2002. If approved, the proposal will then go to the UTSA administration and UT System for review. The constitution contains a new election code that will not be put into effect until the new constitution is passed.
3. Student Government has worked to publicize the University Center 24-hour study facility and will continue to do so during the Spring semester.
4. Ms. Lyons reported that Student Government chairs will be investigating various issues over the holiday break. These include the smoking policy, which is still not being enforced and the need for the installation of security cameras on the 1604 campus.

5. Ms. Lyons said that she planned to work with the Faculty Senate during the Spring semester to develop an honor code for the student body. This would be a code that students would know and live by and be designed to put the responsibility of academic integrity back on the students as opposed to keeping it on the faculty.
6. Student Government also plans to consider supporting an expansion of the University Center. This would possibly be on the condition that the expansion would include additional student organizational space.
7. Student Government was asked to provide a recommendation on a plan, developed by Business Services, to add more copy machines in the library, move some copy machines around, and replace machines that are not working. In order to make these changes, the cost of a copy would be raised to fifteen cents. Student Government decided it would not support such a plan. But when that vote of no support was forwarded to Business Services, Student Government was informed that the decision had already been made to implement the plan.

IV. Committees

V. Other

VI. Consent Calendar: Faculty Senate

1. Recommend approval of a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Actuarial Science – APPROVED
2. Recommend approval of a Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics – APPROVED
3. Recommend approval of a Minor in Applied Statistics – APPROVED
4. Recommend approval of a Minor in Electronic Commerce – APPROVED
5. Recommend approval of a Minor in Infrastructure Assurance and Security – APPROVED
6. Recommend approval of a Minor in Information Systems – APPROVED
7. Recommend Approval of a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering – APPROVED
8. Recommend approval of an Honors College – APPROVED
9. Recommend approval of a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering – APPROVED

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Questions to the President

1. Dr. Frank Pino noted that the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures does not have any tenured or tenure-track faculty in its French program. He asked if that would have any effect on accreditation or teacher certification programs. Dr. Romo responded that he would ask the College of Liberal and Fine Arts Dean to respond at the next meeting.
2. Ms. Lyons said that the Visiting Team for the SACS Reaccreditation Self-Study Review had made a recommendation regarding the role of students in decision-making at UTSA. Student Government passed a resolution in Spring 2001 on this issue and the resolution had been forwarded to the President's Office. Since they have not yet received a response, Ms. Lyons asked if there would be an official statement on the issue. Dr. Romo responded affirmatively.

X. Meeting Adjourned.

Comments or questions to spottorff@utsa.edu

Last updated: Aug 30, 2005