

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 14, 2004 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.

James McDonald, Secretary
The General Faculty

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2004

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Rosalie Ambrosino, Cody Coeckelenbergh, Mansour El-Kikhia, Damon Garcia, Daniel Gelo, Suzy Gray, Elnora Kennedy, Richard Knight, Minnie Martinez, James McDonald, Carolyn Motley, Julio Ramos, Yvette Regaldo, Ricardo Romo, Rudy Sandoval, Rosalinda Stead, David Thompson, Jude Valdez, Destinee Waiters, Deanna White.

II. Reports

A. President's Report – Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo gave a Power Point presentation on UTSA's campaign to become a top tier research institution (copy attached to and made a part of these minutes). During the presentation, Dr. Romo made the following comments and observations:

- UTSA is the second largest institution in the UT System, having just passed UT Arlington.
- UTSA has surpassed all Coordinating Board projections for student enrollment.
- UTSA is a campus for all Texans, especially successful in areas such as Houston, Corpus Christi, South Texas, Brownsville, Laredo, and Eagle Pass.
- During the legislative session, UTSA will urge legislators to be fair by providing funding along the lines of other emerging campuses.
- UTSA continues to have numerous construction projects, including new buildings and parking facilities. However, based on enrollment growth, UTSA still has a major space deficit.
- State funding for higher education has been significantly reduced over the past several years.
- The State of Texas does have funding to use as incentives for business and industry to locate in the state.
- If budgets are cut by five percent, as requested by the Governor, UTSA will have to limit faculty hiring.
- The administration will work hard to tell UTSA's story to the legislators during this session.

B. Secretary – as submitted by Dr. James McDonald

The latest UT System Faculty Advisory Council meeting in Austin on 2-3 December yielded interesting discussion of the larger trends in the political economy of higher education as well as trends within the state in terms of the shape of higher education.

Terri Sullivan noted that there is a move in some states like Virginia and Michigan toward privatization of their flagship institutions. The key to keeping budgets afloat at the Universities of Michigan and Virginia is to off set the loss of state support with out-of-state students and the higher tuition that they pay.

Dr. Sullivan also discussed some of the emergent issues in the state at the level of the Coordinating Board, which has recently accepted a report on doctoral program development within the state. The CB currently seems to be stressing undergraduate education rather than graduate-level training, especially at the doctoral level. Part of the reason for this is an overall decline in the number of doctoral students coupled with the expense of supporting doctoral programs. It was not clear what the implications are of the CB's position for UTSA.

However, a presentation by James Phelps reinforced the orientation at the CB. Phelps and his team at the CB have developed a data-driven reformulation of the formula funding model. The current formula funding model that sets the state's reimbursement for student education by field and level of study was created by Senator Ratliffe in, what I believe was, the late 1980s. It is not clear what factors he used to determine educational cost. The Phelps team's work puts real data behind the formula factors. Overall, as he noted, institutions that emphasize undergraduate education are more advantaged by the new formula factors than research and graduate education oriented institutions. The projection for UTSA is that we would be nominally advantaged by the new formula scheme.

Additionally, all university Presidents are being called to submit nominees for a new Graduate Advisory Policy Committee at the CB.

Along other lines, Dr. Sullivan noted that the UT System was pledging to keep its tuition and fees increases to a maximum of 5%. Campus compacts will be put through a mid-term adjustment. She emphasized the need for faculty input and transparency of process. She also noted that the Chancellor supports the "commission" concept for longer-term planning.

In terms of the upcoming legislative session, Dr. Sullivan noted we are likely to see legislators introduce bills in the upcoming legislative session focusing on graduation rates.

Finally, Dr. Kenneth Shine, Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, discussed some issues of relevance to us on the academic side of the system. First he noted that there is a new Texas Academy of Medicine, Science, and Engineering that will be comprised of members of various national academies. The stem cell research initiative in California is having interesting repercussions throughout the country. Here in Texas there may be a biomedical initiative pushed in the legislature. He also noted that 85% of the professionals working in public health in Texas have no professional training in public health and in the last admissions cycle, 4,100 qualified Texans were turned down for nursing programs in the state for lack of available slots.

On the home front, we now have a beta version of a revised set of governance web pages. Once we have that loaded onto the system, we will work toward getting a newsletter up covering senate and assembly activities. Additionally, I now find myself on the University Web Portal Committee on the faculty subcommittee. We have just had our first meeting and my understanding is that a portal will integrate our official web pages and keep them consistent as well provide faculty, staff, and students with the flexibility to customize the UTSA web page on their desktop.

C. Committees

D. Other

1. Report from the Chair of the Faculty Senate – Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

- Dr. El-Kikhia explained the weighting factors for formula funding. He noted higher education is in fourth place when it comes to state funding. First place goes to public schools, second to health items and third to state prisons. Shortages are expected to continue since no one is willing to say Texas needs a state income tax.

- UTSA is now known across the state as significant competition. This is a tribute to every member of the campus community.
 - The Faculty Senate is in the process of streamlining its operations in order to become more effective and better address issues that confront faculty and students.
2. Report from the Chair of the Staff Council – Ms. Venetta Williams

No report

3. Report from the President of Student Government – as submitted by Mr. Damon Garcia

Voter Registration Institutionalization Committee (VRIC)

- The Student Government Association and the University’s VRIC have been and will continue working towards:
 - Recommending policy that aligns UTSA Voter Registration policies with the rules and regulations governing Volunteer Deputy Registrars developed by the Texas Secretary of State.
 - Recommending policy and a roadmap for the Institutionalization of Voter Registration at UTSA in accordance with the US Higher Education Act of 1998.
- The SGA applauds the University for supporting the students in this worthy effort to continue the advancement of education found outside of the classroom, and establish a means for developing civic awareness amongst all students, faculty, and staff at UTSA.

Early Voting Site at UTSA

The SGA and the VRIC are working towards establishing UTSA as an Early Voting Site. It is crucial for us to lead the way as San Antonio’s exclusive public institution of higher education by embracing our country’s democratic process and giving students the opportunity to vote on campus. We need your support in this venture.

UTSA Mayoral Debate

The SGA is developing plans to bring a much needed Mayoral Debate to our University. We will work with you to make this the best Mayoral Debate in recent history.

UTSA Recycles

The Environmental Services Committee of the Student Government Association developed a proposal for campus wide recycling at UTSA and the proposal was accepted by the Vice President of Business Affairs Kerry Kennedy.

Beginning in the Spring, our University will establish campus wide recycling at the 1604 and Downtown campuses. Two internship positions will be established, and recycling bins will be found in every building.

The students of the University greatly appreciate your support for such a wonderful and necessary program.

Student Bill of Rights

The SGA, with the help of the University’s Administration and several student groups, will be drafting and establishing the first Student Bill of Rights at the University. This document will be composed of basic rights such as Freedom of Speech and the Right to Due Process under law. Please support us in our effort to strengthen the voice and rights of students at UTSA.

Your Student Government Needs Space

The SGA is expanding rapidly and needs additional resources in order to function, one of which is space. Thankfully, our University President has granted some space in the new BTC building at the Downtown campus.

This semester President Romo, you have shown the students that you continue to be an advocate for them. What greater way to continue your tenure in higher education than to invest in the students and the student's voice. You have been a light for our cause. Thank You.

College Councils

The SGA continues in the development of College Councils. Student governance and support within each college at the University.

We need your help in making this program a success for the students and for the colleges. Special thanks to Dr. Gelo, Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, for helping establish the COLFA College Council, Associate Dean Dr. Patricia Harris for helping establish the College of Public Policy College Council, and Associate Dean Dr. Clyde Phelix for helping establish the College of Science Student Advisory Council. The students could not do it without your continued support and guidance.

III. Unfinished Business

None

IV. New Business

None

V. Questions to the President

VI. Adjournment

Comments or questions to spottorff@utsa.edu

Last updated: May 23, 2005