

# 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 March 8, 2005 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 MARCH 8, 2005

#### I. Call to order and taking of attendance

**Present:** Rosalie Ambrosino, Nancy Ayon, Guy Bailey, Cody Coeckelenbergh, Damon Garcia, Daniel Gelo, Suzy Gray, Kimberly Keller, Elnora Kennedy, Minnie Martinez, James McDonald, Julio Ramos, Dee Russell-Terrell, Muneera Shah, Justin Shenk, Rosalinda Stead, David Thompson, Jude Valdez, Deanna White.

#### II. Reports

- A. President's Report – Dr. Ricardo Romo, presented by Dr. Rosalie Ambrosino and Dr. Guy Bailey (attached to and made a part of these minutes)

Dr. Ambrosino and Dr. Bailey gave a presentation regarding enrollment growth and tuition at UTSA. The following are points from that presentation:

- The impact of enrollment growth has resulted in unprecedented growth and lack of funding
- Strain on financial resources
- UTSA does not meet UT System financial criteria for revenue financing system (RFS) for equipment and facilities.

Dr. Bailey said that in 1999 student enrollment at UTSA was 18,600 students. In the past six years UTSA has grown by 8,000 students. This increase represents nearly 50 percent of enrollment growth. Dr. Bailey added that because of this growth, UTSA has maximized the use of its resources and space utilization.

- In the classroom, the hours of space utilization per week is over forty.

Dr. Bailey added that UTSA's student/faculty ratio has suffered the most and he felt that relationship was the most important to rectify. Currently, the ratio is 26 students for every faculty member. Ideally, that number should be brought down to 21 students for every faculty member.

- Because of unfunded enrollment growth, UTSA has been educating approximately 6,000 new students over the last two biennia with no new state resources, severely stretching university resources.
- For every new student added, UTSA has incurred a \$4,000 cost not funded by legislative appropriations.

- Financial implications for UTSA are as follows:
  1. \$ 24 million shortfall of unfunded enrollment growth over last two biennia
  2. \$ 5 million shortfall from FY 04 FY 05 budget reduction
  3. \$ 5 million proposed budget cut of 5 percent for institutional enhancement FY 06/07
  4. \$ 34 million current shortfall
- \$ 6 million financial impact of 1,500 new students – Fall 2005
- \$ 40 million total potential shortfall by Fall 2005

Dr. Ambrosino said that UTSA has a number of strategies in place to address this shortfall. First of all, UTSA is raising more money.

- In 1999, UTSA received \$20.67 million in endowments. In 2004, UTSA has received \$30.21 million.
- There has been a significant increase in total sponsored programs. This includes fellowship support and research Grants for Graduate students. In 1999, UTSA received \$19.9 million and in 2004, UTSA received \$34.3 million in sponsored programs.

Dr. Ambrosino added that for 2004–2005 UTSA was below the average for non-Texas peers and Texas peers in regards to semester tuition and fees for peer institutions. Dr. Ambrosino added that UTSA has a few options in place in order to address this \$40 million impact:

- Restore 5% cut in institutional enhancement and fully fund enrollment growth
- Raise tuition fees

Dr. Ambrosino said that UTSA probably will not receive a significant windfall from the legislature although now it looks as if UTSA may get some additional monies because of the University's growth. She also added that hopefully the University can continue its developing efforts, fundraising, bring in more research dollars, and continue to receive more money from the legislature. Dr. Ambrosino said that the UT System has asked UTSA to stay at a 5 percent increase, which means that it has been proposed to increase tuition and mandatory fees by 5 percent. She added that the Tuition and Fees Committee, which consists of 13 students, partnered together and decided to raise the athletic fee from seven dollars to nine dollars this coming fall. She also added that the committee decided to raise the health fee to two dollars a student and also to increase the student services fee to provide additional student services. The proposed tuition and mandatory fees increase will be spent in the following manner:

- 21% Increase in financial aid set aside
- 42% New faculty and staff
- 12% Increase in debt service for additional facilities
- 11% Increase in Utilities and operations for new buildings
- 14% Automated services fee/technology enhancements

Dr. Ambrosino added that this increase will fund stop-gap measures only:

- \$4.7 million generated by 5% increase is only a stop-gap measure
- Will not be able to hire a sufficient number of new tenured and tenure-track faculty
- Cannot implement funding for student facilities and services as approved by student body referendum in Spring 2004

A member of the University Assembly asked if the Texas Legislature decided to fund UTSA adequately, will UTSA still charge students a 5 percent increase?

Dr. Ambrosino responded that we would fund the campus life initiative, and that this would be the worst-case scenario if we do get funding from the Legislature.

Dr. Bailey included that the House and Senate created versions of the budget. The Senate version looks

better for UTSA than the House version. There are two types of funding given to us by the state. One is allocations that are driven by a formula, or weighted student credit hours. The vast majority of funding through the state is driven by that formula. The other type comes through special items. Dr. Bailey said that the type of funding through special items is always under the gun. He also added that the money that the University used to receive was one or two dollars for every 100 dollars that was put into the formula. The University now gets 8.5 or 8.6 percent of that new money that was put into the formula at this time.

Mr. Garcia asked what the proposed increases would be.

Dr. Bailey responded that if the Senate version went through, UTSA would see a ten or twelve percent increase in overall funding. The House bill only put through 78 million, which breaks down to two million per institution. Out of that, UTSA would see 8.5 percent. These funds will go automatically to debt services to fund designated and statutory tuition.

#### B. Secretary – Dr. James McDonald

Dr. McDonald said that significant progress has been made on the new faculty governance web pages. All pages have now been revised and are on line. He added that those who would like to see the web page may log into <http://www.utsa.edu/gov> to see the new design and updates. Dr. McDonald said that the next step in this process is to develop a newsletter for the Senate/Assembly. A template has been worked up and he will be consulting with Faculty Senate Chair Mansour El-Kikhia about content matters. The first issue will be a variety of updates on Senate/Assembly matter including work being done on a new workload policy, Senate bylaws changes, progress on revisions to tenure and promotion guidelines, progress on creating an ombudsman position, and key recommendations of the Provost's Working Group on Academic Policies.

#### C. Other

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

None

##### 2. Report from the Chair of the Staff Council – Ms. Venetta Williams

None

##### 3. Report from the President of Student Government – Mr. Damon Garcia

Mr. Garcia, President of the Student Government Association, reported on a few things which are listed below:

- The Student Government Association's top issue is the establishment of an early voting site at UTSA. Mr. Garcia said that a few students along with some faculty members will be going to City Hall to try and establish an early voting site. This early voting site was in conjecture with the SGA's continual efforts to strengthen and increase civic awareness among UTSA students.
- Mr. Garcia reminded the members of the University Assembly that there will be a Mayoral debate on April 18, and early voting begins on April 20. He added that it would be beneficial for students to attend the Mayoral debate and then register to vote, since early voting starts two days after the debate.
- The SGA is working to obtain tax free text books for all students in the state of Texas which would save students an average of 30 million dollars a year.
- The SGA would also like to place a student on the Board of Regents in order for students to have more influence in the decision making process.
- SGA will also be fighting for the University in order to obtain tuition revenue bonds in order for the University to grow and become a tier one research institution.

### III. Unfinished Business

Ms. Dee Russell-Terrell reminded University Assembly members about Irish Heritage Day on March 20 from noon to five p.m. at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

#### IV. New Business

Dr. Ambrosino briefed University Assembly members regarding a pro-life group called Justice for All. This organization has been invited to visit the campus by Students for Life, a registered UTSA organization. She said that Justice for All will be visiting and setting up displays in the Sombrilla from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. Dr. Ambrosino reminded University Assembly members that these displays may be graphic and dialogue exchanged between exhibit members and students could become confrontational. She reminded members that they are working hard to ensure that UTSA students and guests have a safe experience.

#### V. Questions to the President

None

#### VI. Adjournment

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

Last updated: May 18, 2005