

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

Documents and Proceedings of the General Faculty and

DOCUMENTS and PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

The minutes of the University Assembly meeting of May 10, 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

MAY 10, 2005

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Rosalie Ambrosino, Guy Bailey, Damon Garcia, Daniel Gelo, Suzy Gray, Michael Kelly, Elnora Kennedy, Minnie Martinez, Carolyn Motley, Justin Shenk, Rosalinda Stead, David Thompson, Jude Valdez, Deanna White, Venetta Williams

II. Reports

a. President's Report – Dr. Ricardo Romo, presented by Dr. Guy Bailey

Dr. Bailey discussed undergraduate teaching. He reported that freshman retention rates, graduation rates, and the percentage of tenure/tenure-track faculty teaching in lower division courses have improved at UTSA. He added that these rates are not where they should be, but that UTSA is moving in the right direction. He also presented an outline regarding actions designed to improve retention and graduation rates. This outline is listed below:

- Expand advising hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and add Saturday and Sunday afternoon hours; we will hire new advisors as needed to expand advising hours
- Require mandatory advising for students with less than 24 hours and for students who have reached 90 hours
- Develop three-year course schedules for all degree programs so that students can adjust work and family schedules in advance
- Video-stream all core curriculum courses except for Freshman Composition and Introductory Math; make the video-streamed courses available to students throughout the semester for the purposes of review and further study and link them to supplemental instruction
- Expand academic coaching for at-risk students
- Expand the number of work-study positions so that students who work can do so on campus if they desire
- Create an Academy of Master Teachers who will be charged with helping to strengthen undergraduate instruction and mentoring
- Refine admission policies (including joint admissions with ACCD) (1) to insure that students who have little chance of success at UTSA will be directed to community colleges, (2) to insure that CAP students who do not meet our admission policies are not admitted, and (3) to expand our

provisional program, which has proved highly successful (with retention rates greater than 80%)

- In addition, we are beginning an extensive analysis of students who do not persist at UTSA to determine what further actions we need to take

b. Secretary – Dr. James McDonald

None

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

Ms. Williams reported that the Staff Council had been given a task by the UT System to prepare and implement a whistle-blowing policy similar to that of the University of Michigan's whistle-blowing policy. Ms. Williams added that she will meet with the UT System in July, and that she has been working with Human Resources regarding this policy. She concluded that the Staff Council is currently updating the Staff Council website to be more user friendly.

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

Mr. Garcia thanked the University Assembly members for their continuing support of the Student Government Association. He also reported on past accomplishments of the Student Government Association such as registering nearly 2,000 students, faculty and staff to vote, planned two mayoral debates that occurred on the UTSA campus, established a campus wide recycling program, utilized a twenty-four hour library, analyzed over 1,000 concerns and student issues, and housed two civic awareness weeks in which the Student Government Association had two hotly contested state representative debates on campus. Mr. Garcia also added that in 2007 UTSA will build an extension to the University Center that will house the Student Government office. He concluded that the Student Government Association is currently working with the Texas Legislature in regards to getting tuition revenue bonds for UTSA, attempting to place a student on the Board of Regents, and also working towards making required text books tax-free.

III. Unfinished Business

Dr. Guy Bailey reported on recent news from the Texas Legislature regarding budget versions. He said that the Senate version of the budget is much better than the House version. He added that currently the Senate and House versions are in conference committee, and that he is unsure when the Legislature will finish up that session.

IV. New Business

None

V. Questions to the President

None

Adjournment

Comments or questions to spottorff@utsa.edu

Last updated: May 18, 2005