

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 9, 2006 published below have been prepared for the immediate use by 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 9, 2006

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Adam Cowdin, Mansour El-Kikhia, Daniel Gelo, Anne Macintosh Speights, Cynthia Orth, Ricardo Romo, Shirley Rowe, Dee Russell-Terrell, Dibyendu Sarkar, Rosalinda Stead, Deanna White.

II. Reports

A. President's Report – Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo reported that he will be attending the Board of Regents meeting, and will be discussing a planning authority for doctorate programs at UTSA. This plan will include the authority to research doctorate programs, and funding options to house these programs.

Dr. Romo also reported that the Texas Legislature may have an opportunity to review tuition revenue bonds this year, even though tuition revenue bonds are only reviewed every other biennium. He added that the Provost's Office has put together a new proposal for UTSA tuition revenue bonds which includes a priority for an Engineering Building and a second priority for a Science, Technology, and Math Building.

Dr. Romo noted that UTSA will hold five commencement events at the end of the Spring, 2006 semester. He added that there will be several individuals speaking at the commencement ceremonies, including Dr. Rosalie Ambrosino.

Dr. Romo discussed that a committee has been created to develop guidelines on how to efficiently utilize summer classes. The committee will also look into programs that are being offered, as well as possibly eliminating some summer high school programs in order to offer UTSA students more courses and classroom space in the summer. Dr. Romo added that he is focusing on increasing doctoral and graduate programs, as well as graduation and retention rates at UTSA.

Dr. Romo also discussed that a strategic planning event for UTSA will be held May 18 through 19, 2006, in Boerne, Texas. This retreat will include members from the Development Board, community members, students, and faculty. The purpose of this retreat is to review UTSA's vision, future, and goals.

Dr. Romo reminded University Assembly members about accountability issues, and added that he has written a letter that asks faculty and staff to be honest and frugal in their spending for travel, conferences, and other areas paid for by UTSA.

B. Secretary – Dr. James McDonald

None

C. Other

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

Dr. El-Kikhia reported on the most recent System Faculty meeting. He said that Dr. Carlos Martinez, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Developmental Relations, discussed the HB 153 and HB 126 bill that deals with five articles regarding public school financing. These articles are fiscal accountability, academic accountability, education of employees, high school success, and college readiness. The Coordinating Board will be developing a program that will review and revise entry level courses to improve student learning and reduce costs.

Dr. El-Kikhia concluded that the Faculty Senate held an election for Faculty Senate Chair, and he was elected for that position for two years.

2. Staff Council Report as submitted by Ms. Cynthia Orth

Ms. Orth reported that Staff Council continues to meet monthly and discusses issues affecting staff at all UT campuses. Staff Council has established a Scholarship Fund to employees pursuing both graduate and undergraduate degrees, and will award the first scholarships for the Fall, 2006.

Ms. Orth also added that Staff Council was give permission to sell bottled water at all five UTSA Commencement Ceremonies in an effort to raise funds for the scholarship. The results of those fundraising efforts will be announced at the next University Assembly meeting in the Fall, 2006.

Ms. Orth concluded that a new Staff Council Chair will assume office September 1, 2006, and will continue the work that Staff Council has begun.

3. Report from the President of Student Government – Mr. Adam Cowdin

Mr. Cowdin reported that he has replaced Mr. Jason Palasota as the new President of Student Government. He added that members from the Student Government Association will attend the strategic planning retreat for UTSA. Mr. Cowdin noted that SGA will be finishing a few projects over the summer, including a discount program for UTSA students, staff, and faculty at local restaurants.

Mr. Cowdin also reported that UTSA is hosting the National Convention for Student Government in mid July. One-hundred and fifty delegates from around the nation will be in attendance.

Mr. Cowdin concluded that one of his goals is to connect UTSA with the San Antonio community, and is developing ways in which the student population can give back to the community.

III. Unfinished Business

None

IV. New Business

None

V. Questions to the President

Dr. Daniel Gelo added that as UTSA moves towards Tier One status, the institution should be seen as a center for excellence in education, and appreciated for the outcomes of education and faculty engagements within the

local Arts and Science community by the San Antonio community. He concluded that college deans are focusing on faculty workload, teaching and research. These are concrete steps in moving towards a Tier One status.

VI. Adjournment