

# 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 December 12, 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.

Sandy Norman, Secretary  
The General Faculty

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2006

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

**Present:** Adam Cowdin, Patricia Dunn, Daniel Gelo, Catherine Kasper, Susan Keehn, Anne Macintosh Speights, Goutham Menon, Sandy Norman, Ricardo Romo, Shirley Rowe, Chia Shih, Rosalinda Stead, Denise Sweeney, Jon Thompson, Jude Valdez, Deanna White.

#### II. Reports

##### A. President's Report – Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo reported that a recent purchase of a 125 acre lot near the UTSA 1604 campus had been made. He noted that consultants will be asked to create a new master plan for UTSA which will denote the purpose of the newly purchased lot. Dr. Romo also discusses the football feasibility study, and said that there will be two financial aspects regarding the study. First, student fees may increase to support the program. Secondly, community support will be needed in order to continue funding for the program. Dr. Romo noted that the football feasibility study group is evaluating the support of this program among the UTSA community. Dr. Romo also discussed matters regarding the upcoming legislative session beginning in January of 2007. UTSA will make a case to combat the possibility of a ten percent reduction in budgets. Dr. Jude Valdez will be asked to testify about the need for more funding for the Institute of Texan Cultures. Dr. Romo also noted that tuition revenue bonds will not be on the agenda for the legislative session this year. In conclusion, Dr. Romo reported that the parking lot near Laurel Village has been closed due to construction which will add new housing facilities for UTSA students.

##### B. Secretary – Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Norman reported on the most recent System Faculty Advisory Council meeting. Mr. Raymond Peredes, commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, discussed that the Coordinating Board will be taking a closer look at doctoral programs. Dr. Norman also reported that the UT System has hired an individual who will oversee the UT System Information Security Office. Dr. Norman noted that rules regarding the handling of sensitive information may change.

##### C. Other

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

None

2. Staff Council Report – Ms. Patricia Dunn

Ms. Dunn reported on the last Staff Council meeting held in November. She noted that three Staff Council officers from the UT Health Science Center attended the meeting in order to seek collaboration on issues regarding insurance and other Staff Council matters. Ms. Dunn also reported that the Staff Council will be selling bottled water at each December, 2006 commencement ceremony in order to raise funds for staff scholarships. She concluded that a representative from the human resources office at UTSA will be asked to attend the next Staff Council meeting in order to give a report regarding benefits and other human resources concerns.

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

Mr. Cowdin reported on the activities of the Student Government Association. He noted that the SGA is working to develop tax-free text book holidays, researching graduation rates, and exploring how CAP students are treated within the system. He also mentioned that the SGA is exploring a top ten percent rule that would apply to graduate students within the UT System. SGA has also encouraged students to donate their leftover meals from their meal plans to families who live below the poverty level. Chartwells is working with SGA on this project, and recently catered these donated meals to 100 children and staff members at a local day care center. SGA is also encouraging UTSA students to donate to the Giving Tree which distributes toys to inner-city children. Lastly, Mr. Cowdin reported that the SGA will fully inform UTSA students about the football feasibility study so that they may make a knowledgeable decision regarding support of a possible football program at UTSA.

III. Unfinished Business

None

IV. New Business

None

V. Questions to the President

Several University Assembly members raised concerns regarding the blocked parking lot near Laurel Village. Due to the construction at this site, paved walkways had been blocked which has forced some staff and faculty members to use an unpaved and unlit walkway. Dr. Romo responded that he will look into this issue and find out what can be done to solve the problem.

Dr. Susan Keehn asked about the summer schedule change. Dr. Sandy Norman reported that by changing the summer schedule to include classes for five days of the week instead of four, class times will be shorter which will ease the strain on the availability of classrooms. The change in the summer schedule will also meet Coordinating Board requirements in terms of total hours of class time.

A University Assembly member asked if there would be enough community support to fund the improvement of the UTSA Library. Dr. Romo responded that UTSA may need to launch a campaign to raise community awareness and support that a need for library renovations exists.

Mr. Cowdin noted that the SGA is exploring the option of creating study spaces in new buildings which will house collections pertaining to particular fields of study. He also discussed the development of an on-line collection available to all students in the UT System with Ms. Stefanie Wittenbach.

VI. Adjournment