

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MEETING of March 1, 2011

The regular bimonthly meeting of the University Assembly for the 2010-2011 academic year was held March 1, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in the Regents' Room (MB 3.106) with Dr. Amy Jasperson, Secretary of the General Faculty, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Ricardo Romo, Amy Jasperson, Carola Wenk, Daniel Gelo, Krisellen Maloney, Laura Murray (for Marjie French), Gage Paine, Jesse Zapata, Cie Gee, Derek Trimm, Anne Macintosh-Speights, Venetta Williams, Belinda Dovalina, Michael Witzel, Donna Fiedler, Harrison Pierce, Chris Weldon, Megan Graham, Huang Yue, Xavier Johnson, Mark Allen, John McCray, Suat Gunhan, Deanna White, Mariela Rodriguez

Absent: John Frederick, Kerry Kennedy, Robert Gracy, Jude Valdez (Excused), Shirley Rowe (Excused), Laurie Long (Excused), Samantha Garcia, Farrah Walji, Jordan Bitner, Jose Weissmann, Goutham Menon (Excused), Thomas Forsthuber (Excused)

Guests: Kelly Garza, Pamela Bacon, Dave Riker, Veronica Ramirez, and Sonia Martinez

Total members present: 36

Total members absent: 15

II. Approval of the November 16, 2010 minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Dr. Romo

Dr. Romo said there are very dramatic cuts compared to previous sessions. He said there is a \$15-\$25 billion budget shortfall. He said other than fuel taxes, he is unsure if there will be more state revenue outlets. He said the governor does not want to use the state "Rainy Day" fund. Dr. Romo said every school district is looking at serious cuts and many libraries will be zeroed out. He said higher education is looking at cuts from 15-20%. He said UTSA is looking at a 15% cut while other institutions are looking at a 20% cut. He said he is most concerned with a 40% cut to financial aid, meaning every senior in high school now would receive no money from Texas Grants. He said recurring students will still receive Texas Grants. Dr. Romo said the information changes every day; the budget is a constant moving target. He said he is not sure how this will effect enrollments. Dr. Romo said UTSA hired

less people over the last two years. He said there were 300 openings but only 150 were filled. Dr. Romo spoke about Chancellor Cigarroa's Letter about Concealed Firearms on Campus. Dr. Romo said the Vice President for Student Affairs at Texas A&M is ex military and said there are not concealed firearms on military bases. Dr. Romo said the Board of Regents has three goals; improve educational quality, increase undergraduate enrollment and the number of degrees conferred, and reduce the cost of a baccalaureate degree. Dr. Romo said they have created two task forces, one on efficiency and one on distance learning. He said he believes there is promise in distance learning. Dr. Romo said there is the question of generation gaps but a part of the college experience is being on campus. He said this contributes to development and training. Dr. Romo said UTSA is trying to enhance the college experience, to make it a richer experience. He said another part of the distance learning issue is hybrid courses. He said the student would come into lecture then have access to videos or documentaries online that would supplement the lecture. He said he will allow the professors to make those decisions. He mentioned Dr. Wenk's suggestion to use voice over-IP as an alternative to phone lines. It was mentioned that there are no SI Leaders for all online courses and no SI session on the downtown campus. Dr. Romo said he doesn't want to be "cutting edge" at the expense of student learning. He said there are issues we can always work on at the Downtown campus.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty- Dr. Amy Jasperson

Dr. Jasperson began by congratulating Dr. Romo for being named CEO of the Year from District Four of the Council for Advancement in Support of Education. She said it is a professional association for people who work in alumni relations, development and marketing. She said the UT System Faculty Advisory Board had a meeting in January and was presented with different research briefs dealing with graduation rates. She said they are looking into more meaningful metrics to measure graduation rates. She said there are changes to healthcare and changes to the UT Flex program effective January 1, 2011. Dr. Jasperson said the bill filing deadline for the state legislature is March 11th and the end of the session is May 30th. She said the UT System Faculty Advisory Council (Sys Fac) passed a resolution on Firearms on Campus. She said they are also working on the Criminal Background Check campus policy. She said OGC sent updated language on the UT Dallas policy and the UTSA committee will be working on examining that language. She said in regards to Regents' Rule 31003 on Financial Exigency, the Regents adopted language including more faculty involvement and Sys Fac proposed to include that language in the policy on program closure. She said Phi Kappa Phi did get the required number of charter members and is moving forward to establishing a chapter on campus.

C. Chair of the Faculty Senate- Dr. Carola Wenk

Dr. Wenk said the Faculty Senate has been busy during the last two meetings. She said there was a 38% response rate for the online teaching evaluations. She said that various issues are being addressed like emails not being sent out to students on time. She said in the future links to the surveys would now be on ASAP. Dr. Wenk said another issue that arose with the online surveys was invitations to take the survey were sent out to students who had dropped the course. She said both the Faculty Senate and the Department Chairs' Council passed resolutions on how the surveys would be used. She said the senate did not want

them to be used punitively if the data was not validated and the Department Chairs' Council decided it will be left at the discretion of the department. She said the senate has been revising HOP 2.12, Teaching Evaluations. It was announced that the surveys will be administered April 4th-14th. Dr. Wenk said the written student comments would be collected in class instead of electronically. She said if the comments are handwritten they are protected from open records requests. Dr. Wenk said that UTSA's response to House Bill 2504, which requires universities to post all survey results, is Blue Book on which the survey results along with syllabi and faculty CVs are posted. She said it is a challenge to keep the response rate up with online surveys. She said generally faculty are unhappy to have the survey results online and it could possibly create grade inflation. Dr. Wenk said that they are looking into different incentives in order to raise response rates. She noted that the plus/minus grading system will go into effect in Fall 2011 and the UTSA Undergraduate Catalog and Information Bulletin will be updated with the new language for Plus/Minus Grading system. She said the senate approved the BA in Multidisciplinary Studies, approved adding ART 1113 and SOC 2023 to the Core Curriculum, consented to a new Technology Entrepreneurship and Management graduate certificate, and approved a new College of Architecture Admission Policy. Dr. Wenk said there will not be a grandfather clause for existing students and a statement will be printed on the students' transcripts stating the Plus/Minus Grading system took effect in Fall 2011. She stated that the Faculty Senate was asked to help choose a new Learning Management System as Blackboard is being phased out. She said the senate created an Institutional Review Board Committee. She said the senate has been working on several HOP Policies including HOP 2.20, Travel and HOP 6.01, Standing Committees, and the PPE Policy. She said there will be a PPE meeting held next week at 3:30 in the BSE Building.

D. Chair of the Staff Council- Cie Gee

Ms. Gee said UTSA Staff Council has a Facebook Page now. She said their January Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser raised over two thousand dollars which increased the number and amount of scholarships they were able to award staff members, four scholarships at five hundred dollars each. She noted that Human Resources is writing a HOP Policy about the Employee Educational Benefit Policy and that this should clear up some gray areas. Ms. Gee said the Staff Council is still working on a smoke free/tobacco free campus proposal. She said the UT Health Science Center's Staff Council requested a meeting with the UTSA Staff Council. Ms. Gee also noted that the Staff Council is implementing a Staff Council Appreciation Award, and she said it is in its pilot stage. She said the recipient would receive balloons and a certificate.

E. President of Student Government- Derek Trimm

Mr. Trimm said he and other students went to the state capitol and met with Representative Mike Villarreal and discussed House Bill 33, which deals with the affordability of textbooks. He said they also discussed the six-hour drop policy, and the possible 40% cut to financial aid and the effects it will have on students. Mr. Trimm said that students are going to the capital on March 8, 2011 and will be lobbying jointly with other UT System students governments against the budget cuts. He noted that the Green Fund five-dollar fee increase was passed. He said any department on campus is eligible to apply for Green Fund

assistance. He also stated that a plan for a gazebo bandstand between the UC and Convocation Center is underway and that a donor donated \$10,000 for the project, but they are still looking for more donations. Mr. Trimm said that over 80% of students surveyed were in favor of the campus Chili's location serving alcohol. He said the SGA is analyzing raw pieces of land around UTSA for Greek Housing and are in the initial stages of research for this project.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

A. Dave Riker

Dave Riker presented a PowerPoint presentation on the new parking garage. He said it will be a 1200 car garage with two coffee kiosks, a spirit shop, a parking office, a visitor's center, Alumni Programs and Office of Communications. He said when the structure is complete it will be the largest building on campus. He said there will parking on the top of the structure and it should be complete by June 2012 and open in August 2012. Mr. Riker explained the new routes around the construction site. He said they will look into an "all weather" path near the service drive because pedestrians are walking in the street. It was mentioned that the two-way traffic lines on the road were worn out and potentially dangerous. He said he would speak with the grounds staff to get the stripes repainted. It was also mentioned that larger signage would be needed to let drivers know the cross traffic does not stop. He said he would look into larger signage for the service drive to alert drivers.

B. Pamela Bacon

Dr. Bacon said discussions about all the parking concerns are underway. She said Lot 4 lost approximately 400 parking spaces for this construction project. She explained the breakdown of the spaces removed for construction. Dr. Bacon was asked why there were no "Staff B" parking spaces left in lot 4 for faculty. Dr. Bacon said the parking is based on convenience with "Reserved" being the most convenient followed by "Staff A" as the next convenient level. She said there is just no room for "Staff B" parking on the north side of campus to meet demand. She said one of the reasons they did not leave a "handful" of spaces is because they want to invite people to go to places where they can find parking. Dr. Bacon was asked if shuttles will be provided for faculty to be shuttled to the north side of campus. Dr. Bacon said that a shuttle for faculty and staff was an extraordinarily expensive solution and is not viable. It was suggested that if the parking garage had different levels it would let people feel like they had some options. Dr. Bacon said the rate would all be the same for "garage" permits. Dr. Bacon said that the fall semester will be very tight for student parking. She said the shuttles are picking up students from the apartments

near the campus in order to reduce the number of students driving to campus. She said the student transportation fee is \$20 a semester. Dr. Bacon said they are looking into the “adult pass” for faculty with VIA Metropolitan Transit.

VI. Questions to the President/Provost

There were no questions.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 4:32 pm.