

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY
AND
DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF
May 10, 2011

The regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2010-2011 was held May 10, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the University Room, BB 2.06.04 with Amy Jasperson, Secretary of The General Faculty, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Ricardo Romo, John Frederick, Amy Jasperson, Carola Wenk, Mark Allen, Donna Fiedler, Thomas Forsthuber, Cie Gee, Daniel Gelo, Suat Gunhan, Laurie Long, Krisellen Maloney, Laura Murray for Marjie French, Mariela Rodriguez, Shirley Rowe, Anne Macintosh Speights, Venetta Williams

Absent: Jordan Bittner, Belinda Dovalina, Roger Frigstad, Samantha Garcia, Robert Gracy (excused), Megan Graham (excused), Xavier Johnson (excused), Kerry Kennedy, John McCray (excused), Goutham Menon (excused), Gage Paine (excused), Harrison Pierce, Derek Trimm (excused), Jude Valdez (excused), Farrah Walji, Jose Weissmann, Chris Weldon, Deanna White, Michael Witzel (excused), Huang Yue, Jesse Zapata

Guests: Steve Barrera, Kelly Garza, Elvira Jacquez, Sonia Martinez

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. President – Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo said the current legislative session has been different from previous sessions. He said it was too early to make predictions on possible budget cuts although cuts to Texas Grants will affect UTSA. There has been much discussion about affordability and a “\$10,000 degree.” Dr. Romo serves on the Taskforce on Online and Blended Learning. UTSA is in need of more lab and classroom space and has requested a \$92 million building for technology. Next year, the groundbreaking will take place for a new dormitory. Dr. Romo said there are a few exceptional items that he hopes are protected, including the Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio Life Science Institute (SALSI),

and The Small Business Development Center. Dr. Romo said the money for the Tier One initiative is protected and growing. After the regular reports, UTSA Police Chief Steve Barrera will make some comments about the concealed handgun bill. Dr. Romo also mentioned that university presidents were called to testify before the legislature about the needs of their campuses. UTSA had a record number of students who graduated this year.

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

Dr. Jasperson said that the UT System Faculty Advisory Council (Sys Fac) passed a resolution in support of Chancellor Cigarroa's leadership of the UT system. She said Sys Fac has been busy compiling links to documents from each campus relating to faculty productivity, tenure and promotion, syllabi, teaching evaluations, blended learning, and other items. She said they have been asked to work on a UT System post tenure review policy. Sys Fac will also examine the faculty workload policies on all campuses. Dr. Jasperson said UTSA generally has larger class sizes than other campuses. She said Regent Powell created a timeline for emerging Tier One Research Universities. The Texas Legislature has created an oversight panel, the Joint Oversight Committee on Education, Governance, Excellence and Transparency, to review decision-making in higher education.

C. Chair of Faculty Senate- Dr. Carola Wenk

Dr. Wenk said a Faculty Senate Research Advisory Committee was established and will work with the Vice President for Research Office. She said the Senate has approved several new admissions and academic standing policies for the undergraduate curriculum including those for the College of Architecture, the College of Engineering and Biology.

D. Chair of the Staff Council- Ms. Cie Gee

Ms. Gee said the Staff Council increased the number and amount of scholarships for staff that are also students at UTSA. She reported an increase in the applicant pool relative to previous years. Staff Council has established linkages with the UTHSCSA Staff Council. In addition, Staff Council is working with Faculty Senate and SGA to distribute a smoking survey in the Fall of 2011, as they have been investigating the UTSA smoking policy. Ms. Gee said the Staff Council elections are coming up in June. She said Christopher Goldsberry is the new chair of Staff Council, effective Fall 2011.

E. Student Government President – Mr. Derek Trimm

No Report.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

Dr. Romo asked UTSA Police Chief Steve Barrera to speak about potential impact of a concealed handgun law for campus.

Chief Barrera said there is a committee working on the potential impact of the concealed handgun bill passing. He said the committee is mainly focusing on the policies and procedures of the police department along with training for officers, faculty, and staff. Chief Barrera said they want to be sure they have a protocol and training in place. One of the biggest potential issues is that police would not be able to differentiate between an active shooter and licensed handgun carriers using their guns to assist in an active shooter situation. He said he is not sure if it would be possible for UTSA to require gun registration with campus police. Chief Barrera would like to implement education for handgun carriers and a Behavioral Intervention Team would be available as an extra element of prevention. Safety information could be added to the Emergency posts found all over campus.

VI. Questions to the President/ Provost

There were no questions.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.