

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 September 21, 2010

The regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2010-2011 was held September 21, 2010 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: Donna Fiedler, John H. Frederick, Roger Frigstad, Thomas Forsthuber, Cie Gee, Daniel Gelo, Amy Jasperson, Xavier Johnson, Anne Macintosh Speights, Goutham Menon, Harrison Pierce, Ricardo Romo, Mariela Rodriguez, Derek Trimm, Carola Wenk, Deanna White, Jesse Zapata

Absent: Marjie French, Robert Gracy, Suat Gunhan, Kerry Kennedy, Krisellen Maloney, John McCray, Gage Paine, Shirley Rowe, Jude Valdez, Jose Weissmann, Venetta Williams, Michael Witzel

Guests: Steve Barrera, Geoffrey Merritt, Donovan Agans

II. Approval of April 20, 2010 Minutes

The minutes were approved.

II. Reports

A. President – Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo liked the idea of bringing people from around campus to discuss issues the University Assembly is interested in. Dr. Romo addressed two points about Tier 1 status and the upcoming legislative session. The first was that UTSA continues to be an institution that remains recognized and is experiencing growth in graduate level programs. UTSA would like to have 15% total student enrollment at the graduate level and we are currently at 14.5%. He expressed his pride in the university moving forward. He mentioned the most recent class of twenty-nine new faculty hired. The staff hiring freeze continues and UTSA will continue to hire other positions in moderation. The university is hiring cautiously to avoid layoffs in the future. He said he will report on the Tier 1 status at the State of the University Address. He believes we have momentum and that the university community can feel it.

His second point was about the upcoming legislative session. Dr. Romo is presenting next week. He would like to have the strongest case he can make about where we are

and what we need as a university. The state deficit is close to 22 billion dollars and it is predicted that the next two to three years will be tough years for higher education. The retirement is down from previous years due to the recession.

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

Dr. Jasperson thanked President Romo and expressed her excitement to be taking over for Dr. Sandy Norman, prior SOGF. Dr. Jasperson thanked the Assembly for being patient while the new team transitions. Dr. Jasperson wants input from all representatives about what is happening on campus. Dr. Jasperson said her main job will be to report on The University of Texas System Faculty Advisory Council. The UT System Faculty Advisory Council's meeting had not taken place yet, but this summer the Advisory Council worked on the Criminal Background Check Policy. The UT System policy will review criminal background history through public records for all current employees. This is a general policy for all faculty and staff; the review must be completed by August 2011. However, UTSA will be able to address its own needs and concerns. The campus policy will be discussed in the Faculty Senate. Dr. Jasperson also mentioned that online teaching evaluations were tested over the summer and will go active this fall. Lastly, she said the University Assembly will look into the bylaws, as they have discrepancies.

C. Chair of Faculty Senate- Dr. Carola Wenk

Dr. Wenk stated that the Faculty Senate had a meeting on Thursday, September 9th and discussed online teaching evaluations, which is a part of a greater project entitled Bluebook, UTSA's answer to House Bill 2504. Dr. Wenk said that UTSA is proactive in regards to this bill. She announced that the Faculty Senate elected new officers and committee members and is using RowdySpace for internal documents and suggested the University Assembly could consider this means of communication. She said she and Dr. Jasperson were planning on writing a newsletter that would combine Faculty Senate and University Assembly news and would be posted on the Faculty Senate website. Lastly, she stated that the Faculty Senate approved the Biology Department admission policy change but did not approve the BA in General Studies.

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

Ms. Gee said the Staff Council elected new members for the 2010-2011 year and at their next meeting officers will be elected. She mentioned that the Staff Council had many initiatives to discuss.

E. Student Government President – Mr. Derek Trimm

Mr. Trimm discussed a few projects the Student Government is working on:

- The five dollar fee increase to begin a Green Initiative was approved.
- A Green Space and a student funded gazebo, or bandstand, is hoping to be built. Student organizations would be asked to contribute.
- September 29th is Votestock. A local band will play for free and student deputies would register students to vote. UTSA has been designated as early voting site for the November 2nd elections. All activities are dedicated to encouraging participation in order to help UTSA to remain a polling site.

- Working with Via to enhance student mobility on campus.
- Requesting alcohol be served at Chili's on campus. 92% of students in favor of this. The SGA wanted to create an Ad Hoc Committee to decide on this issue, but Dr. Gage Paine is working on that committee instead.
- SGA has purchased Vote Net Software. A third party will count the votes made using this software.
- A study abroad in the UT system is being researched. More will be reported at a later date.

F. Chief Steve Barrera- UTSA Police Department

Chief Barrera stated that the campus is a lot busier than in the past. In the last two years, two new traffic lights have been installed and have improved the traffic. In addition, left turn lanes on UTSA Boulevard have also been installed. The UTSA Police Department held a traffic survey coming into campus from IH-10 in the mornings between 7:00-8:30 a.m. On Monday they recorded a 1-2 minute traffic delay, Wednesday a little worse with a 4-5 minute delay and on Friday up to an 8 minute delay. Chief Barrera said that on Tuesday and Thursday the traffic is heavier with an average 8-11 minute delay. The shuttle drivers feel it is better than in previous years. He mentioned the average traffic delay leaving campus heading toward IH-10 in the afternoon between 4:30-6:00 p.m. is 8-11 minutes. The long-term solution would be to widen UTSA Boulevard. The City of San Antonio and TX DOT have been working on this, but it is a funding issue. Chief Barrera called the City Traffic Office to have them ensure the lights are timed properly and cycling efficiently. They will come out and do another survey and study to ensure it is functioning properly. Chief Barrera also sends out the officers to direct traffic if there are issues like accidents or light problems. Overall, the delays were shorter than anticipated. It is typical in major thorough fairs across the city. He will make sure the lights are timed correctly.

G. Mr. Donovan Agans-UTSA Emergency Management Unit

Mr. Agans stated that the first recommendation in an emergency should be to call UTSA emergency at 458-4911. He stated that this telephone number goes directly to the UTSA police and this will save a step from having San Antonio Police Department transfer the call. This number can be reached twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. All classrooms and laboratories have an emergency guide and directory. He suggests that everyone pre-plans and is acquainted with the procedures. Currently, the only means to contact UTSA is by phone and the blue phones on campus. There is not text messaging capability in dispatch presently; however, Reverse 911 can text message out. He feels that texting is an interesting idea and will look into. Even San Antonio dispatch does not have this capability. He realizes it is a preferred means of communication, but feels the vocal exchange is very important.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was none.

V. New Business

Mr. Harrison Peirce volunteered and by acclamation was elected parliamentarian of the University Assembly.

VI. Questions to the President/ Provost

- The president was asked if he had any confirmation on budget cuts. He answered that he will get more information in January. There will likely be additional cuts; however, we have a very good Board of Regents and they will try to keep tuition costs down.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm.