

**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  
November 16, 2010**

The regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2010-2011 was held November 16, 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: Ricardo Romo, Amy Jasperson, Carola Wenk, Daniel Gelo, Gage Paine, Jude Valdez, Cie Gee, Derek Trimm, Anne Macintosh Speights, Venetta Williams, Shirley Rowe, Belinda Dovalina, Michael Witzel, Laurie Long, Donna Fiedler, Harrison Pierce, Roger Frigstad, Chris Weldon, Farrah Walji, Xavier Johnson, John McCray, Thomas Forsthuber, Deanna White, Suat Gunhan, Mark Allen, Mariela Rodriguez

Absent: John Frederick (Excused), Krisellen Maloney, Kerry Kennedy, Robert Gracy, Marjie French (Excused), Laura Murray (Excused), Jesse Zapata, Samantha Garcia, Jordan Bitner, Megan Graham, Huang Yue, Jose Weissmann, Goutham Menon (Excused), Irina Solovyova,

Guests: Rebecca Luther, Bruce Tingle, Cheryl Nunn, David Diaz, Charlin Jones, Adam Sockl, Carolina Canizals

II. Approval of September 21, 2010 Minutes

The minutes were approved.

II. Reports

A. President – Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo mentioned that the UTSA football program had been invited to join the Western Athletic Conference and accepted the invitation. He also mentioned that the university is pursuing a doctoral degree in Mechanical Engineering. The proposed program has done well with outside peers and the UT System and is currently being reviewed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Dr. Romo said the formal numbers on the state deficit and budget will be released in January.

- B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Dr. Amy Jasperson  
Dr. Jasperson said representatives from the faculty, staff, and administration are working on the criminal background check campus policy. There will be a presentation from Human Resources later in the meeting on the retroactive criminal background checks of current employees. She also mentioned that she has been in touch with Human Resources about having related offices create a map of ADA accessible routes for the entire campus.
- C. Chair of Faculty Senate- Dr. Carola Wenk  
Dr. Wenk said the Faculty Senate discussed the plus-minus grading system and the issues that arose from it. The plus-minus grading system may require some catalog changes but she said the senate is looking into it. Dr. Wenk also mentioned that the senate will be working on guidelines for online teaching evaluations for upcoming semesters. She said that an ad hoc committee was created for the criminal background check policy.
- D. Chair of the Staff Council- Ms. Cie Gee  
Ms. Gee mentioned that the staff council is investigating the Employee Education Benefit which is up for HOP review in order to make it less ambiguous. She said the council is working on a proposal to make UTSA a smoke-free campus. She also mentioned the council is looking into increasing staff council scholarships. She acknowledged Ms. Shirley Rowe from the Employee Advisory Committee to provide an update. Ms. Rowe mentioned the Living Well Fitness Initiative is not being utilized within the UT system and the EAC is evaluating its use. She said the EAC is creating a Cost Reduction Committee to look at other UT components and how they are cutting costs.
- E. Student Government President – Mr. Derek Trimm  
Mr. Trimm said the SGA would like to make recommendations on the Plus/Minus grading system, such as adding an ‘A+’ grade. He also mentioned the possible addition of a “grandfather clause” that would prevent the change from affecting existing students. Mr. Trimm said that the SGA registered over 1,600 students, had forty-five campaigns attend, 25 candidates, and had a good student turn out overall at the Vote Stock event. He said that student leaders met with Representative Joaquin Castro who said there would be a fifteen percent budget cut. Rep. Castro is also interested in eliminating the six-hour drop limit and he would author the bill to have this changed. Mr. Trimm said that they are looking into softening the existing hazing laws. Mr. Trimm said they have the Green Fund Committee almost finalized and it will be active soon.

#### IV. Unfinished Business

There was none.

## V. New Business

### A. Cheryl Nunn- Human Resource Advisor

Ms. Nunn explained that HRMS is used to create employment assignments. She stated that in the past DEFINE left a two week grace period after September 1<sup>st</sup> to continue to enter assignments without interfering with benefits. She said that HRMS works in “real time” so on September 1<sup>st</sup> any unassigned employees had a lapse in their benefits. She stated that as soon as the employee was entered into the system, their benefits were manually restored. She said that Human Resources will run lists of all employees with assignment end dates, including NTT Faculty, and notify the departments ahead of time to avoid this issue in the future. She also mentioned that those employees whose benefits lapsed were reimbursed any out of pocket expenses they occurred during that period. She said that the HRMS system allows for new assignments to be entered early, unlike DEFINE.

### B. David Diaz- Associate Director of Employee Relations

Mr. Diaz said the UT System Chancellor has issued a new requirement to run a criminal background check on those who never received one. He said the criminal background check is used for all UTSA applicants, persons receiving a title change, and persons transferring departments. He said that UTSA uses an outside company to run the checks and the CBC included arrests, charges and pending convictions. He said the police receive the results and send them to his office. There are three categories of results -- green means no offenses, yellow means minimal risk and red indicating serious risk. Mr. Diaz asked Assistant Police Chief Dan Pena to elaborate on these designations. Chief Pena explained that upon receiving a red category for an existing employee, the police will notify David Diaz who will gather all pertinent information for that employee and contact the Vice President in the employee’s area. The police will give the Vice President the particulars to assist in the evaluation.

Mr. Diaz said that a faculty member up for a tenure/promotion will not have to get another CBC. He said there are currently 1700 employees without a CBC on file. He said they receive information from the Texas Department of Public Safety, including only Texas convictions and deferred adjudications. The police will begin CBCs alphabetically and the employees would be notified via email. He explained that if someone received a green, he/she would receive an email stating that no further action is needed at this time. If an employee receives a yellow or red category, he/she will be notified immediately and given the opportunity to explain.

### C. Charlin Jones- Executive Director-Special Events

Ms. Jones said that UTSA is planning to start a Phi Kappa Phi chapter on campus. She mentioned that the chapter is run by faculty and is open to any discipline. She is trying to get fifteen charter members from among faculty and administration; there are currently nine confirmed charter members. She said that she believes the second part of the process

should go much quicker and once established they can begin to recruit students. She announced an interest meeting for faculty in early December. She said that Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest honors fraternity in the nation that recognizes the top 7% of juniors, and the top 10% of seniors and graduate students.

- D. President Romo recognized students not previously listed on the agenda to speak about the Dream Act.

The student spokesperson explained that the group is in on their seventh day of a hunger strike. The group supports an eleven-year path to citizenship for a minor under the age of 16. The person will either actively serve in the U.S. military for two years or attend community college for two years or graduate with a four year degree, earn a work visa, and eventually be granted a green card. After five years, these individuals are able to apply for citizenship. The UTSA movement is planning to continue their hunger strike until they receive a pledge from Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson.

VI. Questions to the President/ Provost

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:24pm.