

# 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 13, 2011

The regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2011-2012 was held September 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the Mesquite Room, UC 2.01.24 with Amy Jasperson, Secretary of The General Faculty, presiding.

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

Present: Ricardo Romo, Amy Jasperson, Carola Wenk, Mark Allen, Joshua Davidson, Belinda Dovalina, Daniel Gelo, Christopher Goldsberry, Suat Gunhan, Xavier Johnson, Laurie Long, Jennifer Lozano-Lowe, Anne Macintosh Speights, Krisellen Maloney, John McCray, John McGee, Ana Navarro, Elba Ramos, Mariela Rodriguez, Jude Valdez, Jose Weissmann, Ryan Zapata

Absent: Jordan Bittner, James Chambers (excused), Donna Fiedler (excused), John Frederick (excused), Marjie French, Samantha Garcia, Robert Gracy, Kerry Kennedy, Goutham Menon (excused), Gage Paine (excused), Harrison Pierce (excused), Alex Roberts (excused), Deanna White, David Yang (excused), Huang (Michael) Yue, Jesse Zapata (excused)

Guests: Gregory Frieden, Sarah Leach, Sonia Martinez, Rob Robinson

### II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved.

### III. Reports

#### A. President – Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo talked about the school's enrollment statistics for the current semester. He said that the Fall 2011 enrollment goal was 30,000 and the university had preliminary enrollment of 31,114 students enroll (+3%) as of the first class day. The university's goal for undergraduate enrollment was 25,000 and there was also an increase here of +2% at 26,378. Freshmen make up around 5,000 of new student undergraduates. Dr. Romo said that they represent a strong academic class, with most students in the top quartile.

The number of graduate students was also higher than expected. This increase in enrollment is attributed largely to the retention of sophomores (62.5% vs 57.2% in the previous year). Dr. Romo said this demonstrates how positive UTSA is performing at student retention.

Dr. Romo briefly discussed the new UTSA football team and the excitement and energy surrounding the inaugural game a few weeks ago. He also discussed the Chancellor's Framework for Advancing Excellence. He pointed out that the Chancellor's action plan emphasizes productivity and outcome, but the plan also states that one size does not fit all (in other words, universities will have different graduation rates and may offer different programs to meet the needs of their students).

Dr. Romo talked about the importance of accountability and also pointed out the nine focal areas in the action plan:

1. Undergraduate Student Access and Success
2. Maintaining Excellence in the Faculty, Administration, and Staff
3. Research
4. Productivity and Efficiency
5. Information Technology Infrastructure Investments
6. Philanthropy
7. Ph.D. Programs
8. Health and Medical Education
9. Expanding Educational and Health Opportunities in South Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley

President Romo concentrated on the first focal area on undergraduate student access and success. Dr. Romo pointed out that it's not just about the number of students you enroll, but also about the number of degrees awarded each yr. He said that around 5,000 students will get their degrees this year from UTSA, which is twice as many as 10 years ago.

Dr. Romo also emphasized the importance of recruiting, retaining, and rewarding excellent faculty, administration and staff. He also spoke on the importance of research as part of our quest for Tier One. Faculty research plays an important role at UTSA. It would be a challenge for a faculty member to teach a sophisticated subject without researching or practicing it themselves. By focusing on research, faculty will be able to foster innovation in their students. Dr. Romo also spoke on productivity and efficiencies as well as Ph.D. Programs. Dr. Romo mentioned that the Chancellor's presentation can be accessed online for more information.

Plan:

<http://www.utsystem.edu/news/files/2011/FrameworkActionPlan-08-25-11.pdf>

Powerpoint:

<http://www.utsystem.edu/news/files/2011/FrameworkPowerpoint-08-25-11.pdf>

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

Dr. Jasperson noted that there has not yet been a meeting of the UT System Faculty Advisory Council. She spoke about the Chancellor's framework and how it affects faculty. For example, there is an emphasis on strengthening the post-tenure review process as well as the annual review process. On campus, the annual review process is currently being examined by the Provost's faculty working group, who are now combining in a joint committee with administrators on this task. Dr. Jasperson mentioned that the UT System has adopted a new online resource to help students in their academic planning called MyEdu ([www.myedu.com](http://www.myedu.com)). She reminded the Assembly that the strategic implementation plan is being updated and improved this semester, and to check the Provost's website for meeting dates. She also urged the Assembly to pass this information to others in order to get stakeholders engaged in the discussion. Dr. Jasperson said that the Freshman Focus Steering Committee, led by Nancy Martin, has already met to move forward in outlining a plan for the Freshman Experience. Subcommittees are currently being formed to discuss topics such as academic content issues, transfer issues, student support, and faculty concerns, among others. Those interested in serving should contact Dr. Jasperson or Dr. Martin. Dr. Jasperson also said that there have been some issues with after-hours classroom access for faculty. If a faculty member is locked out, the faculty member's administrative contact should call key control to make sure the faculty member is on the list to have access. If this happens after hours, campus police should be contacted. Dr. Jasperson expressed the gratitude of the faculty to President Romo for this year's merit raise. Also, she reminded the Assembly of the President's State of the University Address on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. in the University Center III.

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

Dr. Wenk also thanked the President and Provost for the merit raises provided this year. She talked about the new faculty gathering area being constructed on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the JPL in the library. She said it would include an assembly area, as well as a learning center with specialized technology that will enhance technology-enabled learning and research collaboration. Dr. Wenk said that the Faculty Senate meeting was held last week, and that the committees are currently in the process of electing their chairs. The Faculty Senate also approved three proposals: Changes to new undergraduate admissions criteria, changes to undergraduate admissions criteria for the college of business, and the approval of a BS in Public Health. The Faculty Senate is currently conducting electronic voting to approve revisions to the following proposals: BS in Health, BS in Kinesiology, and for a minor in Professional Writing.

D. Chair of the Staff Council - Mr. Christopher Goldsberry

Mr. Goldsberry talked about the Staff Council's scholarship and the increase in the number of applications for the scholarship. He said that the application should be available in late October. In June, elections were held for the Staff Council, now consisting of 35 members. Mr. Goldsberry discussed the smoke-free policy, and said that it is still being reviewed. In addition, a survey will be coming out this semester to students, staff, and faculty to gain more input on the issue. The Staff Council will hold

their monthly meeting next week to elect officers. Mr. Goldsberry also reminded the Assembly about the Staff Council's bowling fundraiser which is held to increase funds for staff scholarships.

E. Student Government President - Mr. Xavier Johnson

Mr. Johnson spoke to the Assembly about the Student Government Association's (SGA) petition to incorporate more food options at the downtown campus. The petition has been signed by students, faculty, and staff. He said SGA members have passed this as a resolution. SGA is planning to approach both the Faculty Senate and the Staff Council to try to gain their support on this issue. Another issue he spoke about was related to joint sponsorship. Holding events on campus that incorporate funding going to outside organizations are currently restricted at the university. SGA would like to try to modify this, because they believe that these events would provide a networking opportunity for students and would foster community collaboration. One sustainability initiative that Mr. Johnson discussed was the creation of a master plan that would link the university's bike paths with the city's paths. In other news, the Green Fund bylaws have been approved and Mr. Johnson will begin to appoint student members to the committee soon. Finally, he said that SGA would like to improve the process of registration waitlists for courses by creating a queuing system which would send emails notifying students of an available seat in a course as soon as it becomes available. This will prevent students from having to constantly monitor class enrollment availability.

IV. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

- Dr. Rob Robinson – Assistant Vice Provost for Distance Learning / OIT  
Dr. Robinson said that one major goal for OIT has been the integration of the Blackboard and Banner systems, due to student growth population and the number of courses that are using these systems. The integration will achieve two things: it will enable faculty course shells to be created automatically and will make grades easier to move from Blackboard courses to midterm and final grade reports. Faculty should eventually be able to export grades into banner from the Blackboard gradebook with a single click. There is now one main ID for students to use, which is their "myutsa ID". This ID has replaced the previous banner ID, allowing for ease of use by most systems. OIT believes that most issues have been worked out and everything should be running smoothly at this time.

There will be a change taking place with the Learning Management System (LMS). Blackboard CE 8 (which is currently being used) will be ending in January 2013. An LMS Faculty Task Force has been evaluating other platforms but more feedback is needed. Various factors will be taken into consideration, such as cost, feasibility with technical infrastructure, security, faculty ease of use, and student accessibility. There are 5 learning management systems (LMS) being considered: Blackboard Learn, Desire2Learn, Pearson E-College, Moodle/Joule, and Instructure Canvas. Dr. Robinson

also spoke about the university's drive toward developing hybrid/blended courses through the Hybrid Academy taking place over the summer. He explained the Regent's definition of a hybrid course as one in which *"50% or more of the seat time in the class is replaced by online instruction"*. So far 70 faculty members have come through the Hybrid Academy. Dr. Robinson stressed that this method may not be adaptable to all courses and that content should be developed about how to adapt a class to hybrid mode. A key goal of this initiative is to recapture class space and utilize it more efficiently. In addition, the new faculty tech lab will be opening in the spring of 2012 and is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the MS building. Dr. Robinson spoke briefly about the Regents' initiative to create the UT System's Institute for Transformational Learning. UT System campuses can compete for funds from the UT System by utilizing innovative approaches that can be adapted across all institutions. The PowerPoint presentation given by Dr. Robinson can be accessed on the University Assembly webpage.

- Election of Parliamentarian

Dr. Mariela Rodriguez, faculty representative from the College of Education and Human Development, volunteered and by acclamation was elected Parliamentarian of the University Assembly.

VI. Questions to the President / Provost

There were no questions.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.