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 13, 2012

The regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2012-2013 was held November 13, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Regents’ Room, MB 3.106 with Ricardo Romo, President of the University of Texas at San Antonio, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Ricardo Romo, Misty Sailors, Rebekah Smith, Roger Cardenas, James Chambers, Sedef Doganer, Ricky Elizondo, Gregory Frieden, Cie Gee, Dan Gelo, Rhonda Gonzales, Rosalind Horowitz, Eugene John, Xavier Johnson, Jennifer Lozano-Lowe, Krisellen Maloney, Marian Martinello, Laura Murray, Lindsay Ratcliffe, Dan Rossiter, Steven Woodall

Absent: John Frederick (excused), Pamela Canales, Joshua Davidson, Samuel Gonzales, Kerry Kennedy, Laurie Long (excused), Sabrina Macal, John McGee, Goutham Menon, Emeka Nwaeze, Elba Ramos (excused), Michael Starkweather, Philip ZeColmeia Taele, James Turner (excused), Jude Valdez (excused), Richard Wollney, Marianne Woods, Jesse Zapata (excused)

Guests: Justin Bingham, Julius Gribou, Joe Izbrand, Sarah Leach, Sonia Martinez, Ken Pierce

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. President – Dr. Ricardo Romo

President Romo called the meeting to order and asked for a brief introduction from each of the assembly members. He gave an update on the recent national rankings and recognitions achieved by UTSA. He said that UTSA has been ranked as one of top 400 universities in the world by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. He explained that there are approximately 17,000 universities in world, and of those, 7,500 are US institutions. Of these, 4,500 offer bachelor’s degrees. President Romo said that out of the 400 top universities, there are 111 US universities, 66 of which are public
institutions. He said that this is a great step in UTSA’s efforts to achieve Tier 1 status. He introduced Joe Izbrand, UTSA’s Chief Communications Officer, who will be in charge of tracking this information in the future. He said that another achievement for UTSA is its ranking at number 53 of the top 100 universities under 50 years old. Other accolades for UTSA include being one of only 21 US universities with an A-rating for core curriculum, a top school for contributions to the public good, and among the top quartile of research universities in the world.

President Romo briefly explained UTSA and the UT System’s current legislative priorities. He said that UTSA would like the UT System to consider updating their formulas for funding institutions by focusing on funding growth and growing institutions. President Romo said that UTSA would also like the UT System to authorize new tuition revenue bonds, since they have been reluctant to raise student fees in order to keep tuition costs stable. He said that it is important to continue investing in financial aid programs including Texas grants (which impact students by about $220 million yearly). Finally, he said that it is important for the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) to continue being funded. This program provides funding for emerging premier institutions and matches local scholarship funds.

President Romo discussed the current status of Hazlewood exemptions, which are unfunded mandates for veteran’s assistance. He said that the Hinson-Hazlewood Act funds up to 150 hours of tuition exemption to Texas veterans returning to public institutions. However, if this benefit is not needed, veterans can transfer the unused hours to their spouse or children. Because of the increasing number of people utilizing this benefit, the costs have increased dramatically across most institutions (without any state assistance). UTSA’s costs for this mandate have increased from $2.02 million in 2009-2010 to $7.7 million in 2011-2012. He said that the Hazlewood exemptions are set to be discussed by the legislature.

President Romo said that UTSA is requesting Tuition Revenue Bonds for a 150,000 square feet science building. He said that UTSA is requesting these funds for an experimental science instructional building because the UT System is only intending to fund STEM-related requests (science, technology, engineering, and math). He said that the new building will include classrooms, teaching labs, and new offices. The total cost is estimated at $92,750,000 for this 4-year project. The new building will open up space in the old science building for renovations. He said that a decision on approval for this project should be announced by June 2013.

President Romo discussed the new North Paseo I building which is currently under construction. He said this is a 180-square foot, 5-story building will bring in staff members currently located at University Heights and will include more classrooms and offices. The “100-year” building is expected to cost around $52.4 million and should be completed in September 2014.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Dr. Misty Sailors

Dr. Sailors discussed the encryption requirements brought up at the most recent SYSFAC meeting. She said that the Chief Information Security Officer and Senior Attorney & System Privacy Officer informed the SYSFAC members that the next items scheduled to be encrypted are desktops, thumb drives, mobile devices, and any sub awards (that flow down). Dr. Sailors invited Ken Pierce to give some additional information and updates on
this topic. Mr. Pierce said that the next encryption application will be on mobile devices and vendors are currently being looked at to facilitate centrally-focused mobile device management for all users. He explained that the original intention to solve thumb drives encryption was to simply disable the thumb drive capability on all computers. However, he said that a more reasonable solution was agreed upon to utilize encrypted thumb drives. So far, there have been 22,000 purchased, all of which are encrypted. A question was asked regarding whether or not the UTSA network could be accessed through a personal device. Mr. Pierce said that a personal device may be used but that is must be encrypted to access the network. He said that minimal UTSA webmail could still be accessed through browser capabilities. A question was asked regarding the impact on students. Mr. Pierce said that computers on campus will be encrypted, and students will have to have the most updated software and updates installed on their personal computers to access the network. He said there should be minimal impact to students, as the focus is mainly on faculty and staff at the university. Mr. Pierce also said that UTSA is currently at 95% laptop encryption and thanked everyone again for their cooperation.

Dr. Sailors said that Steven Mintz is the new director for the Institute for Transformational Learning at the UT System. The institute is funded at $50 million and offers competitive grants to enhance higher education, creates high quality online courses, cultivates PPP, and will advance the UT System's efforts to help working adults complete their bachelor's degree. She said that the UT System has introduced a new Hazing and Alcohol Initiative, which is intended to provide campuses with recovery funding as needed. She mentioned some other updates, including a possible upcoming peer teaching recommendation or policy, interest in developing a training/evaluation method for department chairs, and the ongoing conflict of interest/commitment policies.

Dr. Sailors said that she and Dr. Hard attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates where Kirk Watson (District 14 Senator) discussed the relationship between public school accountability and higher education. He asked the council to question what they are doing/can do to create value and how to get the message out to the community, and also look at ways to be more frugal. In addition, he posed the question “How do we garnish community support in light of what is happening to higher education in Austin?” and encouraged everyone to write to their legislators as individuals (not as representatives of the university) to support higher education in Texas.

C. Chair of the Faculty Senate - Dr. Rebekah Smith

Dr. Smith said that the senate has approved a bylaws change to add the Chair of the Retired Faculty Association as an ex officio member. She mentioned two policies the senate has been working on: the Comprehensive Periodic Evaluation policy and the policy on the Annual Review of Faculty. She thanked the Provost’s office and Dr. Zapata for their collaborative efforts during the revision process on these policies. Dr. Smith said that the senate has recently approved a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Immunology and a certificate in Data Center Design. The senate has also approved 127 courses, including an Academic Inquiry course, for the new core curriculum. She told the assembly that the senate is still providing representation on the GRIP cross campus teams, and that two senators are participating with Ken Pierce’s team on developing an early alert system which will help students stay on track with their courses. Dr. Smith
said that at the senate’s last meeting, they voted to approve the addition of written comments to course survey evaluations.

D. President of Student Government – Xavier Johnson
Mr. Johnson said that there are three main student needs with respect to legislative priority. The first is continuing financial aid (which 70% of students utilize) so the Student Government Association (SGA) asks that the UT System will continue supporting grant programs. The second student need is in regards to veteran’s fee labors. Mr. Johnson said that SGA passed a resolution in support of continuing assistance for veterans through the Hazlewood Act and other programs. The third legislative priority for students is the option of concealed carry laws. Mr. Johnson said that a poll taken by SGA revealed that 66% of students are against it and SGA will continue to set more legislative priorities as the legislative session approaches.

Mr. Johnson said that the second UT Student Advisory Council (SAC) meeting was recently held and mentioned the resolutions which were passed at the meeting. These resolutions include the approval of the veteran’s resolution, a health institution initiative relating to medical residency for students, more funding for institutes of higher education, and a resolution in support of funding for undocumented students. In addition, SAC voted to make the issue of concealed carry an individual campus decision, but noted that the UT System as a whole is opposed to it.

He said that SGA passed a strategic plan which will set long-term goals for SGA, and that this plan will be posted to the website soon. He encouraged everyone to visit the SGA website which has been recently updated in accordance with university branding and marketing. He announced that there is a Town Hall meeting scheduled for tomorrow in the Bexar Room from 4-6 p.m. for constituent outreach.

E. Chair of the Staff Council – Gregory Frieden
Mr. Frieden announced that Monday, March 4th, 2013 is the annual Strikes for Scholarships event hosted by the Staff Council. He encouraged all UTSA staff and faculty to attend and said that the event includes prizes and a silent auction. He said the event has been very successful in the past and Staff Council is looking for another great turnout. Mr. Frieden said the Staff Council is planning to conduct their nominations in May, and hold elections before the end of the spring semester. By having elections earlier in the year, he said it would be easier to get new members acclimated to their positions.

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

- Bylaws revision – consider adding UTSA Alumni and/or Parent’s Council representatives as ex officio members
  A discussion was held about possibly adding the Alumni Association chair to the assembly, as this issue was previously brought forward at the last spring semester meeting. Dr. Romo said that adding the chair of this group to the assembly would be a great way to spread the word about what’s happening at UTSA, and also
provide an outlet for UTSA’s Alumni group to share its current endeavors. It was agreed that adding this group would be consistent with the assembly’s purpose as stated in the bylaws and the Alumni Association would enhance community support for UTSA. Since a 30-day notice is required for an assembly vote to modify the bylaws, new bylaws wording will be developed and sent out for a vote at the next assembly meeting.

- OIT Updates/Cloud system
  - Ken Pierce, Vice Provost, Information Technology
  Mr. Pierce discussed the recent migration of email to the Cloud system. He said that up until now, OIT has been responsible for managing all of UTSA’s servers and keeping data storage current. The new Cloud system will reduce this burden on OIT, in addition to improving users’ desktop videoconferencing capabilities, etc. Mr. Pierce explained the cost savings with the Cloud: The 5-year cost for locally-hosted email services was $400,000 and Cloud services are $22,500. He said that Microsoft is responsible for updates (which should be timelier), and Microsoft is also responsible for keeping the system up and running. He said that users will gain increased mailbox sizes (5 gigabytes to 25 gigabytes) and improvements to functionality. If a user needs more space, OIT is able to expand their storage capacity to 100 gigabytes. Users will still be able to login with their MyUTSA ID (aka “abc123”). Mr. Pierce said that mail will be stored in Virginia and backed up in Washington.
  He said the migration to the Cloud is currently underway and is expected to conclude in December. Mr. Pierce said that during the migration period, local shared calendars cannot be seen by users in the cloud, and calendars moved to the cloud cannot be seen by local users. Because of this, OIT is attempting to move users and their respective shared calendars into the cloud at the same time. He did tell the assembly that there is a 1,500 unique user limit per day for sending emails, but said that a distribution list counts as one user. He said that OIT is working on other options for the long term and that all of this information can be found on OIT’s website.

VI. Questions to the President
There was a question about the naming of the new North Paseo building. The new building will be named Plaza Norte so there won’t be any confusion with the current North Paseo building.
  Gregory Frieden announced that UTSA had raised over $213,000 for the State Employee Charitable Campaign as of yesterday in donations alone. He said that paper pledges are still being counted, and encouraged everyone involved to thank those who participated.

VII. Adjournment

The next Assembly meeting will be held on February 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the Regents’ Room (MB 3.106).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.