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
February 18, 2014

The regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2013-2014 was held February 18, 2014 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, Mauli Agrawal, Justin Bingham, Jurgen Engelberth, John Frederick, Dan Gelo, Rhonda Gonzales, Samuel Gonzales, Rosalind Horowitz, Eugene John, Krisellen Maloney, Marian Martinello, Sarah Netterlund, Lindsay Ratcliffe, Misty Sailors, Jude Valdez, Venetta Williams

Absent: Sedef Doganer (excused), Zack Dunn, Josh Fierro, Marjie French, Charles Garcia, Cie Gee, Sarah Gibson, Susan Hough (excused), Kort Jackson, Kerry Kennedy, Laurie Long (excused), Manuel Maldonado, Daniel McTyre, Goutham Menon, Emeka Nwaeze, Alejandro Ontiveros, Amanda Ramon, Camille Ramos, Rebekah Smith (excused), Chris Stewart, Richard Wollney, Steven Woodall, Jesse Zapata

Guests: Sarah Leach, Kyle Lemere, Ediri Nesiama, Christian Trevino

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from November 19, 2013 were approved.

III. Reports

A. President – Ricardo Romo

President Romo announced UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa’s decision to step down and return to practicing medicine, which was recently announced on February 10. Dr. Cigarroa has served as Chancellor since 2009. During that time, he developed a Framework for Advancing Excellence Plan and supported the creation of two medical schools and a new university in the Rio Grande Valley. President Romo said that a new Chancellor is expected to be appointed over the coming months.
President Romo congratulated Sam Gonzales, who was appointed as Vice President for Student Affairs on January 1. He has spent 37 years with UTSA and will oversee new recruitment strategies, athletics, residence halls, and student life.

President Romo announced the formation of a student dining committee, originally proposed by the Student Government Association. This committee will gather feedback and promote recommendations on food services at UTSA. Membership will include students and representatives from Student Affairs, Business Affairs, and the President’s office. The committee will begin work on March 1.

President Romo has also recently created a Student Leadership Council comprised of 20 students representing different areas. The council will gather ideas on how to improve the student experience at UTSA, continue to engage in dialogue with student leaders, and allow students to serve as ambassadors for the student community. President Romo introduced three members of the council to the University Assembly.

He said that a new undergraduate recruitment strategy is underway. The goal is to increase the number of top quartile students enrolling at UTSA. A new scholarship program will be introduced as well as a more focused approach on the alignment of UTSA’s marketing and advertising efforts. The new admissions director is Beverly Woodson Day.

President Romo reminded the assembly that construction on the new North Paseo building is underway. The building will be 5-stories comprised of classrooms, research labs, and administrative space. The building will be used to consolidate cyber security research efforts and will house the administration offices currently located at University Heights. The $52.4 million building is expected to be completed in September 2014.

B. Secretary of the General Faculty – Misty Sailors

Dr. Sailors reported that the following resolutions and recommendations were passed at the UT System Faculty Advisory Council meeting in January:

- The creation and endorsement of a model policy on peer evaluations
- A resolution supporting the faculty at UT Brownsville and UT Pan American
- A recommendation for the creation of a Space Utilization committee on each campus
- A recommendation for the creation of an Information Security Advisory Committee on each campus
- Suggested language for a policy on encryption

C. Chair of the Faculty Senate – Misty Sailors (for Rebekah Smith)

Dr. Sailors said that the Faculty Senate recently approved a minor in Museum Studies, as well as pre-major requirements for Chemistry, Computer Science, Psychology, and Kinesiology, Health & Nutrition. The senate also approved the discontinuation of the Bilingual Business certificate in Spanish. She said that the transition to PeopleSoft is raising a number of concerns, particularly with respect to the elimination of the option of electing a 12-month spread for faculty salaries. Dr. Sailors said that there have been many new policies approved, and expressed the faculty’s continued appreciation to the Provost, Jesse Zapata, Ken Pierce, and Mickey Stevenson for their ongoing collaboration on policy development.
D. Chair of the Staff Council – Justin Bingham
Mr. Bingham said that Staff Council’s annual Strikes for Scholarships event will take place on Monday, March 3rd at University Bowl from 6:00-8:00 p.m. He said that February 28 is the final day to register for the event. In addition, the event will include a silent auction and items are needed. Mr. Bingham said to contact Cynthia Orth for more information on the silent auction. He said that Staff Council has recently formed a Health & Wellness committee in support of the university’s tobacco-free policy. He said that pilot classes are currently being formed and more information will be coming soon.

E. President of Student Government – Zack Dunn
There was no report from SGA.

IV. Unfinished Business
There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

• Vote on amendment to bylaws – Article III, Section I – Members
The following proposal was presented to the assembly for a formal vote:

“Elimination of the “Chair of the Non-tenure Track Faculty Committee” from the assembly’s list of ex officio members.”

The reason to eliminate this position is because it no longer exists. The assembly voted to unanimously approve the recommendation to eliminate the position.

• UTSA History Project – Marian Martinello
Dr. Martinello presented UTSA’s History Project to members of the assembly. The three components of the project are oral histories, a monograph series, and a commemorative publication. Dr. Martinello shared some of UTSA’s earliest photographs including photos of UTSA’s first student, first graduating class, and a photo of Texas’ governor signing legislation to establish UTSA. She also shared some interesting facts about the early days at UTSA. The average age of undergraduate students admitted in 1975 was 29. By the year 2012, it had dropped to 22. Dr. Martinello said that the oral histories portion of the project aims to capture stories from faculty, administrators, staff, students, and alumni to be preserved for future generations. She said that over 40 interviews have been scheduled and completed interviews have been archived. The history collected so far will be presented at the Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting on March 9. Dr. Martinello urged the assembly to assist the Retired Faculty Association with this project by helping to identify potential interviewees willing to contribute their stories.
• Presentation of Appreciation Letter to Chancellor Cigarroa
  Dr. Romo presented a letter that was drafted by the assembly’s executive committee to be sent to the Chancellor, on behalf of the University Assembly. The assembly voted to unanimously approve and send the appreciation letter to Chancellor Cigarroa as written.

VI. Questions to the President

There were no questions.

VII. Adjournment

The next Assembly meeting will be held on April 22, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Regents’ Room (MB 3.106).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.