The regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2013-2014 was held April 22, 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, Samuel Gonzales, Eugene John, Krisellen Maloney, Marian Martinello, Lindsay Ratcliffe, Rebekah Smith, Venetta Williams, Jesse Zapata

Absent: Sedef Doganer (excused), Zack Dunn, Josh Fierro, Marjie French, Charles Garcia, Cie Gee, Dan Gelo (excused), Sarah Gibson, Rhonda Gonzales (excused), Rosalind Horowitz (excused), Susan Hough, Kort Jackson, Kerry Kennedy, Laurie Long, Manuel Maldonado, Daniel McTyre, Goutham Menon, Sarah Netterlund (excused), Emeka Nwaeze, Alejandro Ontiveros, Amanda Ramon, Camille Ramos, Misty Sailors (excused), Chris Stewart, Jude Valdez (excused), Richard Wollney, Steven Woodall

Guests: Anne Hardgrove (for Rhonda Gonzales), Sarah Leach

II. Approval of the Minutes

There was no quorum present to approve the minutes from February 18, 2014. A notice will be sent out to Assembly members to approve the minutes electronically.

III. Recommendation to revise bylaws – President Ricardo Romo

President Romo introduced the proposed bylaws changes. These changes include adding the Alumni Association and Retired Faculty Association representatives to the Executive Committee. In addition, it is proposed that the Executive Committee will determine the number of official meetings (at least one) each semester. Since a 30-day notice is required for bylaws changes, an email will be sent out after 30 days of this meeting to request an electronic vote on these proposed changes.

IV. Topic of Discussion – President Ricardo Romo

President Romo told the Assembly that a new meeting format will be used going forward. This new format will allow for more open discussion and idea generation. Each meeting will have a main topic of discussion and Assembly members will breakout into groups to
discuss the topic. At the end of each meeting, each group will share a brief summary of their discussion. The topic for this week’s meeting is ideas for inclusion into the formation of the university’s new strategic plan.

**Group 1 summary:** The discussion began on the question of types of buildings to best meet UTSA’s needs in the next few years. It progressed from there to discussion of online as compared to conventional classroom instruction. Related questions examined student needs, interests, and abilities. Adaptation and Flexibility are two words that were frequently referenced. Classrooms, in particular, need to be designed so that they may be easily changed as new developments occur over time, especially as changes occur in laboratory instrumentation and technology. Student learning needs also determine the best classroom structures. For instance, group work can only be accomplished in classrooms that allow for movement of people and furnishings. Audio and visual materials for use by and with students with a variety of learning styles should also be accommodated without interfering with other teaching resources, such as white boards. Flexibility in teaching and evaluating students with different ways of learning must also be addressed. Online courses may be suitable for some disciplines at different stages in student learning. More conventional classroom experiences will better meet disciplinary characteristics and student needs at other times. There should be room for both. The use of each must be carefully selected for different teaching-learning purposes. Adaptive teaching should meet different student learning needs at various times in their college experience. The same is true of evaluation methods.

**Group 2 summary:** The group discussed how to best approach the new strategic plan. They said that it is important for people to look at the university’s current strategic plan, in order to better understand and support the new plan. This should help to boost people’s investment in the new plan. They discussed the lack of diversity in the old plan, and the importance of incorporating it into the new plan. Ideally, the new plan will be reflective of UTSA and San Antonio, and will not be a plan that would work for just any institution. The group also highlighted the importance of the convergence of UTSA’s 50-year anniversary with San Antonio’s 300-year anniversary.

**Group 3 summary:** The group looked at a scale of “quality” and “time” factors to analyze the jump between being a good school and a great school. The key take-away from the discussion was the importance of updating the university’s daily processes so they remain current and effective. There is a need for a “disruption” among business process in all areas to encourage a different way of thinking and to reassess current methods.

V. Questions/Comments
   There were no additional questions.

VI. Adjournment
   There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.