THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEEDING OF THE GENERAL FACULTY
AND
DOCUMENT and PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

The minutes of the University Assembly meeting of December 1, 1998 published below have been prepared for the immediate use of the members of the University Assembly and are included in its Documents and Proceedings. They are also included in the Documents and Minutes of the General Faculty for the information of the members.

Betty S. Travis, Secretary
The General Faculty

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 1998

The second regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 1998-99 was held in room 4.03.08, John Peace Library Building, on December 1, 1998, at 3:30 p.m. with Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Guy Bailey presiding.

I. ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Deborah Armstrong, Guy Bailey, Alan Craven, Rey Elizondo, Mansour El-Kikhia, Jane Findling, Andrea Hall, Patricia Harris, Dwight Henderson, Sheila Johnson, Michael Kelly, James McDonald, Tom Ricento, Walter B. Richardson, Jr., James Schneider, Betty Travis, Raydel Tullous, Jude Valdez, Maggie Valentine, Anthony Van Reusen, Arturo Vega, Bobbie Walker, Matthew Wayner, Karen Whitney

ABSENT: Ron Alexander, Diana Allen, Donde Ashmos, Ron Ayers (excused), Monica Berry, John Brown, Eric Denton, Eugene Dowdy, Jahan Eftekhari, James Gaertner, Christina Hanson, Robert Hirimoto (excused), Kymberly Holmes, Ann Howell, Samuel A. Kirkpatrick (excused), David Larson, Constance Lowe, Monica Lumley, Lalatendu Misra, Susan Nordhauser, F. Alexander Norman, Ted Peck, Clemencia Rodriguez (excused), R. K. Smith, Sandra Welch

Total members present: 24
Total members absent: 25

II. Minutes of the October 13, 1998, meeting were approved.

III. Reports

A. Secretary – Dr. Betty S. Travis

Dr. Betty Travis reported that Presidential Search Committee interviewed ten finalists for the position of UTSA President on November 16 and 17, 1998. They then submitted four names to the Board of Regents for their consideration. Campus visits for each of the candidates have been tentatively scheduled for the last week of January and the first week of February. Dr. Travis said that the Regents have indicated their willingness to call a Special Meeting of the Board in late February if it becomes necessary to do so in order to have a new president named by the end of February.

Dr. Travis reported that she recently sent a newsletter to all UTSA faculty providing an update on Senate Bill 148. The legislation, dealing with fields of study, is an area of concern to faculty because it authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop curricula for the lower division majors. The development of the curriculum has always been under the purview of the faculty. She said that meetings
had been held with Senator Bivens, who appears to be agreeable to the possibility of changing the bill. Dr. Travis said that a meeting of representatives of the UT System Faculty Advisory Council and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board had been scheduled to discuss the implementation of the bill. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board web page address was included in the newsletter so faculty could make comments on Senate Bill 148 directly to the Coordinating Board.

Dr. Guy Bailey reported that the Office of the Provost had forwarded recommendations of UTSA faculty member to serve on the Field of Studies Committee.

B. Committees

None

C. Chair of the Faculty Senate – Dr. Arturo Vega

Dr. Vega reported that a letter to Dr. Kirkpatrick on the Grievance Policy outlining the relative demerits of model language recommended by the UT System Office of General Counsel would be prepared. The Senate remains optimistic that Dr. Kirkpatrick will continue to work with the Senate to resolve the Grievance Policy issue.

Dr. Vega informed the University Assembly that the Faculty Senate’s Academic Policy and Requirements Committee, chaired by Dr. Patricia Harris, held a Faculty Forum to solicit input from faculty members on academic restructuring. The Committee is investigating principles, values, and processes related to restructuring of academic units and will make recommendations to the Senate early in the Spring 1999 semester.

Dr. Vega reported that the University Task Force on Faculty Salary Compression, working closely with the Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, had completed work on the salary compression issue. At the November 10, 1998 meeting, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution recognizing all members of the Task Force and expressing appreciation for their efforts on a very difficult project.

Dr. Vega stated that the Faculty Senate met on November 24, 1998, with Dr. Marian Martinello, Chair of the Southern Association of Colleges of Schools Self-Study Thematic Committee. Dr. Martinello discussed ways for the Faculty Senate to become informed with the self-study process. Dr. Vega will continue to work with her to facilitate that involvement.

Dr. Vega reported that the Faculty Senate’s Ad Hoc Committee on the Evaluation of Administrators will continue to work with the Office of the Provost to implement the evaluation of administrators, beginning in the Spring 1999 semester.

Dr. Vega informed the Assembly that the Teaching Effectiveness and Development Committee is in the process of examining the instrument used for faculty teaching evaluations and will report to the Senate in the Spring 1999 semester.

Dr. Vega reported that the Senate had asked Dr. Kirkpatrick to request an external management audit of the Office of Student Affairs.

Dr. Vega reported that the Senate established an Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Women Issues. The Committee’s charge is to study items such as salaries, maternal leave and evaluation of teaching as these issues relate to Women Faculty.

IV. Consent Calendar: Faculty Senate

1. Recommendation to the November 10, 1998 report of the University Curriculum Committee to approve the revised Core Curriculum passed.

V. Unfinished Business
None

VI. New Business

Karen Whitney made a motion that a report from the President of Student Government be added to the University Assembly’s agenda on a regular basis. Motion passed.

Karen Whitney requested that the President provide an update on the status of the University Assembly Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws and Shared Governance at the next meeting.

VII. Questions to the President

None

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Comments or questions to spottorff@utsa.edu
Last updated: Sept. 1, 2005