I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Rosalie Ambrosino, Adam Cowdin, Mansour El-Kikhia, Catherine Kasper, James McDonald, Anne Macintosh, Kenneth Masden, Cynthia Orth, Rolando Quintana, Ricardo Romo, Dibyendu Sarkar, Rosalinda Stead, Deanna White.

II. Reports
A. President’s Report – Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo discussed enrollment growth, capacity, faculty hiring, faculty salaries, facilities projects, and sponsored program awards at UTSA. Important points regarding these issues are outlined below:

- UTSA had a record enrollment for 2005. There are currently 27,400 students, and that is a fifty percent increase since 1999. Graduate student growth had also risen fifty-six percent since 1999. There are currently 3,700 Graduate students enrolled at UTSA. Doctoral student head count had risen from 369 to 5,399. Due to the large growth in students, capacity at UTSA has become a top priority.

- The number of faculty members at UTSA in 1999 was 846. UTSA currently houses 1,082 faculty members. In 1999, UTSA had 391 tenure-track faculty and 459 adjunct professors. There are currently 564 full-time, tenure-track faculty and 18 part-time, non-tenure track faculty members. In the last few years UTSA had averaged hiring 55 faculty a year. In 2004, 74 faculty were hired, and in 2005 72 faculty members were hired. UTSA should be hiring at a rate of 60 to 70 faculty members each year. Faculty hiring has been exceptionally strong in the College of Sciences, and weakest in the College of Architecture.

- Faculty salaries remain competitive at UTSA. In 1999 the average salary for an assistant professor was $43,099. Today it has risen to $61,386. The associate professors’ average salaries have risen from $51,984 to 70,447, and full professors’ salaries have also raised $67,165 to $94,808.

- Starting December 1, 2005 the Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building (BSE) will begin housing faculty and staff. The remainder of the BSE Building will be built in three phases. One phase will be completed in January, one in February, and one in March. The Margaret Batts Tobin Laboratory was completed in September 2005, and is a state-of-the-art research laboratory facility.

- UTSA now holds a large amount of sponsored program awards. In 1999, UTSA received $19,950,000 in sponsored awards and grant research. In 2005, UTSA’s amount of sponsored...
program awards has risen to $39,136,000.

Dr. Rosalie Ambrosino added that these issues listed above are shared by the deans, faculty, staff, and students at UTSA. She reported that faculty and staff members are researching ways in which to support UTSA’s infrastructure. Dr. Ambrosino said that a new dean for the College of Sciences will be hired by January 1, 2006. She added that both College of Sciences and College of Engineering deans will need to produce an equitable policy on who has access to lab space and how much. Dr. Ambrosino also said The UT System has requested that UTSA prepare its budget by asking for any increases and fees for the next two years. She added that developing a two-year budget is positive because it will supply students with the understanding of what they will be required to pay UTSA in terms of tuition and fees for the next two years. She included that students are currently being contacted to begin meeting with the Tuition and Fees Committee. Dr. Ambrosino concluded that increasing graduation and retention rates have become a priority, and that a conference will be held at UTSA during the spring of 2006 to discuss this issue. Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia asked Dr. Ambrosino if a long term plan was in place for staff members at UTSA. Dr. Ambrosino responded that there is not a long term plan currently in place for staff members, but that she agreed UTSA is short-staffed, and will be looking into that issue. Dr. Dibyendu Sarkar reported to Dr. Romo that there is a lack of communication in the College of Sciences. Dr. Romo responded that when there is leadership in the smaller colleges, there is excellent communication. He said that he is encouraged by the College of Sciences dean candidates, and hopes that the College of Sciences will have a new dean soon so that proper leadership and communication may ensue.

B. Secretary – Dr. James McDonald

Dr. McDonald discussed his attendance at the System Faculty Advisory Council meeting in Austin. He said that Dr. James Bartlett provided a summary of the latest Board of Regents meeting where a key concern was with the System’s capital improvement plan. The legislature’s focus has been on the health campuses, which in many ways reversed the current critical shortage of space on rapidly expanding academic campuses, such as The University of Texas at San Antonio. He added that the Student Advisory Council promoted a student honor code, which the Regents supported in principle. Another issue that was discussed at the System Faculty Advisory Council meeting included bridge funding for NIH grant proposals that received high scores but are still unfunded. The System Faculty Advisory Council supported the idea, but does not have the funds for such a project. They also encouraged campuses to create their own funding strategies. Dr. Shine, the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, has started a nursing initiative which will make funds available for the construction of facilities. Dr. McDonald added that UTSA should be on the look out for a public health initiative. Ashley Smith, Vice Chancellor of Governmental Relations and Policy noted that the legislature was not struggling with a $10 billion dollar shortfall, as the Appropriations Bill provided an 8.14 percent increase to health institutions and a 1.4 percent increase to academic institutions. Dr. McDonald also discussed the items that did not pass at the System Faculty Advisory Council meeting, such as the revocation of tuition deregulation and tuition revenue bonds. Dr. McDonald added that Terri Sullivan, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an overview of a recent UT System Workshop on graduation rates. She noted that all campuses are developing a plan to address improving graduation rates. She also noted that many in the legislature believed that this is an institutional problem: too many prerequisites and complicated programs of study. Finally, Ms. Sullivan said that a workshop on faculty mentoring is on tap. Dr. McDonald also gave a report on the Provost Search Forum that he is chairing. He said that the student forum will be held Friday, October 21, 2005 from 11 to 12 p.m. in the Willow Room of the University Center (UC 2.02.12), the faculty forum will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. on that same Friday in the Willow Room, the forum for external community members will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. on that same Friday in the Willow Room, and the staff forum will be held Tuesday, October 25, 2005 from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Willow Room. Dr. McDonald concluded that he has developed a Governance Newsletter that will be available on the governance webpage, and will report on activities of the Faculty Senate and University Assembly.

C. Other

1. Report from the Chair of the Faculty Senate – Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia
Dr. El-Kikhia reported that the Faculty Senate began the process of improving communication. He has asked that faculty senators present to their faculty reports gathered at Faculty Senate meetings. He added that updating the *Handbook of Operating Procedures* will be an important process for the Faculty Senate. Dr El-Kikhia also reported that President Romo had signed over several policy changes from the Faculty Senate such as the Family Medical Leave policy and the policy to establish an Ombudsman. He concluded that the most important issue is for Faculty Senators to recognize that they do have a voice in UTSA affairs.

2. Report from the Chair of the Staff Council – Ms. Cynthia Orth

Ms. Orth congratulated the Staff Council as being acknowledged in the UTSA infrastructure. She reported that Staff Council has 26 new members, and that all staff council members will be part of a committee so that everyone may participate in creating positive changes at UTSA. Ms. Orth added that a Communications Committee will explore ideas of exchanging information, and will contribute to the communication processes at UTSA. She concluded that Dr. Geri Malandra, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Planning and Accountability, sent out a letter from the UT System Board of Regents requesting for faculty and staff to develop written statements of the top two to three key issues or priorities that UTSA will encounter over the next five to ten years. These statements will be collected and compiled into a database.

3. Report from the President of Student Government – Mr. Jason Palasota, presented by Mr. Adam Cowdin

Mr. Cowdin reported that the Student Government Association at UTSA passed a Student Honor code last year, and that SGA will be working on the *Handbook of Operating Procedures* if possible. He also reported that SGA has been developing an outreach program in order to communicate to all students at UTSA. Mr. Cowdin added that the SGA created a Student Business Alliance Program in which any one with a UTSA ID card may receive discounts at select businesses. Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia asked about the possibility of SGA creating a radio station for UTSA campuses. Mr. Cowdin responded that a radio station is being heavily pursued, but is no longer a SGA project. Former members of SGA are currently working to set up the radio station. Mr. Cowdin added that SGA is currently developing a resolution for the city of San Antonio to place a peak EMS unit which will serve the UTSA campus and the surrounding community. He added that SGA will be holding a special election for a new Vice President Internal, and SGA will be making changes to their constitution and bylaws. Mr. Cowdin also reported that City Councilman Art Hall will speak at the SGA General Assembly on November 10, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. UTSA has been chosen once again to be an early voting site for statewide elections. Mr. Cowdin reminded University Assembly members that the early voting site will be open October 24, 2005 to November 4, 2005. He concluded that UTSA has been chosen as a host site for the National Student Government Conference held by the National Association for Campus Activities.

III. Unfinished Business

None

IV. New Business

None

V. Questions to the President

Ms. Cynthia Orth asked President Romo if a UTSA Roadrunner statue would be placed near the Main Building. Dr. Romo responded that he was in contact with a few artists, and will look into that issue.
VI. Adjournment

Comments or questions to jennifer.milner@utsa.edu
Last updated: January, 18 2007