THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

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

The minutes of the University Assembly meeting of March 7, 2006 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.

James McDonald, Secretary
The General Faculty

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2006

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Rosalie Ambrosino, Mansour El-Kikhia, Daniel Gelo, David R. Johnson, James McDonald, Anne Macintosh Speights, Cynthia Orth, Jason Palasota, Rolando Quintana, Ricardo Romo, Shirley Rowe, Dee Russell-Terrell, Dibyendu Sarkar, Rosalinda Stead, Deanna White.

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

Dr. Romo gave a presentation regarding part-time undergraduate percentages at UT Institutions, part-time and first-time degree seeking undergraduates, financial aid awards, graduation and persistence rates, licensure exams, academic advising, average GRE, LSAT, and GMAT scores of entering graduate students at U.T. Academic Institutions, administrative staff ethnicity, sources of revenue, and uses of funds at UTSA (attached to and made part of these minutes). The following are important points from the presentation.

- Part-time undergraduate percentage totals were measured for each U.T. Academic Institution. In 2004, 25.4 percent of students enrolled at UTSA were part-time undergraduates. That percentage is a decrease from the year 2000 when 33.6 percent of students enrolled at UTSA were part-time undergraduates. Dr. Romo stated that this was a positive change, and that currently nearly 75 percent of students enrolled at UTSA are full-time undergraduates.
- Part-time, first-time degree seeking students measured 3.2 percent of total students enrolled at UTSA in 2003. That is a significant decrease from 7.8 percent in 1999.
- In the 2004-2005 academic year, UTSA received 10,279 federal undergraduate financial aid awards totaling in $25,351,905. The sums of state awards were 1,798 totaling in $5,707,180. Including institutional, private, work study, and loans awarded to UTSA, the total number of all awards was 38,362. The total amount of all awards UTSA received was $136,438,690. UTSA falls second in this category to UT Austin which received a total number of 62,192 awards totaling $281,022,531.
- In 1998, of all students enrolled in UTSA, 26.9 percent graduated from UTSA, 10.1 percent graduated from another Texas institution, 10.4 percent persisted at UTSA, 13.1 percent persisted at another Texas institution, and the composite graduation and persistence rate for UTSA was 60.6 percent. In the same year, females had a higher graduation rate than males at UTSA.
- In academic year 2003-2004, the initial pass rate for licensure exams in Engineering at UTSA was...
66.7 percent. The College of Engineering at UTSA is exploring methods in which to raise this percentage number among students.

- In 2005, 67.3 percent (out of 171 respondents) of first-year students rated the quality of the academic advising they received as good or excellent. In the same year, 65.6 percent (out of 262 respondents) of seniors rated their academic advising experience as good or excellent. These numbers decreased slightly since 2003.

- UTSA students were asked that if they could start their college career over again, would they attend the same institution. In 2005, 80 percent of 171 first-time students polled said that they would attend UTSA again. 74.4 percent of 262 seniors polled said that they would attend UTSA again. These percentages have increased from 2003.

- The average GRE score of entering graduate students at UTSA in academic year 2004-2005 was 1011. UTSA ranked fourth out of all UT Institutions, while UT Austin ranked first with an average GRE of 1213. The average GMAT score of entering graduate students at UTSA in academic year 2004-2005 was 500. With this score, UTSA ranked fourth while UT Austin ranked first with an average score of 649.

- In academic year 2005-2006, 67 percent of all administrative staff at UTSA are Anglo, 27 percent are Hispanic, 3 percent are African American, and 2 percent are Asian.

- In fiscal year 2005, 38 percent of UTSA’s sources of revenue came from tuition and fees, totaling in $110,130,800. State appropriations made up 28 percent in sources of revenue, totaling in $81,485,500. Federal grants and contracts were 19 percent of the sources, totaling in $54,099,960. In fiscal year 2005, sources of revenue by category were student and parent equaling 38.2 percent, state of Texas, equaling in 31.2 percent, federal government, equaling in 18.8 percent, and institutional resources equaling 11.8 percent.

- In fiscal year 2005, the largest use of UTSA funds was instruction, totaling $87,547,500. The second largest category was capital outlay which totaled $86,097,700. The third largest was institutional support equaling $29,081,280. Institutional support is infrastructure issues that are not maintained by physical plant.

B. Secretary – Dr. James McDonald

Dr. McDonald discussed the Provost search. He said that a short list of candidates will be shared with the UTSA community soon. Campus interview dates for the candidates will be March 20, 2006 to March 24, 2006. The UTSA community will be notified of the dates and times of the meetings and forums.

C. Other

1. Report from the Chair of the Faculty Senate – Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

Dr. El-Kikhia reported on the most recent System Faculty meeting held in Austin. He added that Geri Malandra, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Planning and Accountability discussed planning and accountability. She developed a website that faculty can visit and give their feedback regarding those issues. Terri Sullivan, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is leaving The University of Texas at Austin for a Provost opportunity in Michigan. Dr. El-Kikhia added that a replacement position for Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UT has been opened. Brian J. Haley, the first student regent, also attended the System Faculty meeting. Representative Patrick Rose from the Texas House Committee and Regent speaker Ms. Colleen McHugh discussed the possibility of creating more funds for higher education. Dr. El-Kikhia noted that both Mr. Rose and Ms. McHugh knew very little of UTSA’s financial and space issues. However, both individuals were very receptive to discussions regarding these issues at UTSA.

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

Ms. Orth reported that Staff Council had set up several committees regarding employee benefits, compensation, eligibility, and other issues that are important to UTSA staff and students. Staff Council has also developed a staff scholarship which will aid in staff members continuing their undergraduate or graduate education. The first scholarship of $250.00 will be awarded to one
undergraduate and one graduate staff member during the Fall 2006 semester. As more contributions are received, the award will increase. Ms. Orth added that the Staff Council website has been updated, and a link to the Staff Council website has been added to the Quick Links option on the UTSA homepage. In conclusion, Staff Council is in the process of setting up a database of individuals who have graduated from UTSA, and have since become UTSA employees so that recognitions can be made.

3. Report from the President of Student Government – Mr. Jason Palasota

Mr. Palasota reported on activities of the Student Government Association. SGA has set up a textbook survey in ASAP in order to research how much UTSA students are paying for books per class. SGA will have those results soon, and is currently exploring ways to reduce textbook costs. Mr. Palasota added that a student Bill of Rights was created last semester, and will be added to the *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. SGA is also looking into setting up a coffee shop at the UTSA campus for students, improving library lighting, and expanding UTSA athletics to include a football team. Mr. Palasota also discussed SGA elections. There are currently four candidates for President, three candidates for Vice President, and two candidates for treasurer. This high turnout is due to SGA’s development of a constitution. In conclusion, Mr. Palasota added that a Political Palooza will be held towards the end of the Spring 2006 semester, and will consist of a debate between all senators and other candidates. SGA General Assembly Meetings are held Thursdays at 5:30 in the Retama Room.

III. Unfinished Business

None

IV. New Business

None

V. Questions to the President

Dr. Dibyendu Sarkar asked President Romo if procedures were in place to support the increase in graduate and doctoral students in the College of Sciences. Dr. Romo responded that procedures are in the process of being set up. In the meantime, the College of Sciences should inform all graduate and doctoral students exactly how much support they can offer, as to avoid misleading the students. Dr. Romo said that he would like to discuss this issue with Dr. Rosalie Ambrosino and Dr. George Perry. Dr. Sarkar also asked who is currently dealing with space issues in the College of Sciences. Dr. Romo responded that Dr. Rosalie Ambrosino is heading up a committee that will work with Dr. George Perry, Colleges of Sciences Dean, and his suggestions and recommendations regarding space issues. Dr. Romo concluded that a new plan for space issues at UTSA will be discussed with Dr. Kerry Kennedy in the near future, and findings will be reported to the University Assembly.

VI. Adjournment