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 October 19, 2006 published below have been prepared for the immediate use by 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.

Sandy Norman, Secretary
The General Faculty

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2006

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

Present: Rosalie Ambrosino, Patricia Dunn, Mansour El-Kikhia, Daniel Gelo, Catherine Kasper, Anne Macintosh Speights, Alicia Matus, Sandy Norman, Ricardo Romo, Shirley Rowe, Chia Shih, Rosalinda Stead, Jon Thompson, Deanna White.

II. Reports

A. Report – Dr. Ricardo Romo

Dr. Romo discussed the cultivation process for UTSA, and reminded members of the University Assembly to encourage the community to support UTSA. He also discussed that eighty percent of the UTSA budget is made up of fifty percent tuition and fees, and thirty percent from the state. Dr. Romo mentioned that the Board of Regents is responsible for allowing the University to increase or decrease tuition and fees for students. He also noted that accountability in terms of graduation and retention rates is a priority, as the graduation rate for a four-year track at UTSA is just below thirty percent. Dr. Romo also noted that Dr. Rosalie Ambrosino appointed a team that will research the issue of graduation and retention rates, and if entering freshman are adequately prepared for college when they arrive at UTSA.

B. Secretary – Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Norman introduced himself as the new Secretary of General Faculty. He welcomed the members of the University Assembly, and noted that he attended the System Faculty Advisory Council with Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia.

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 Advisory Council meeting. He noted that Chancellor Mark Yudof was concerned with the lack of community support for the UT System. He also discussed that at the next SYSFAC meeting, UTSA will request a ten percent return of funds from the State of Texas in order to devote more to higher education. He concluded that SYSFAC members are also considering establishing a new fund which would parallel Permanent University Funds.
2. Staff Council Report – Ms. Patricia Dunn

Ms. Dunn introduced herself as the new Chair of Staff Council. She discussed the events of the first Staff Council meeting of the year, and noted that a Vice Chair, Secretary, Historian, and Parliamentarian were elected. She added that the Staff Council has formed an Issues Committee charged with focusing on issues such as employee benefits. Ms. Shirley Rowe is chair of that committee. She concluded that UTSA Staff Council members will be traveling to Austin to meet with UT System members and the Staff Council at the University of Texas.

3. Report from the President of Student Government – Mr. Adam Cowdin

None

III. Unfinished Business

None

IV. New Business

None

V. Questions to the President

Dr. Chia Shih asked if a new state law had been implemented that requires colleges to cut back on credit hours required for students to graduate. Dr. Rosalie Ambrosino replied that this law is in effect, and that all state colleges will be required to cut back their required credit hours to 120. She also noted that if a specific major requires more than 120 total hours for a student to successfully graduate, a special case outlining the reasons for the additional credit hours must be approved by President Romo; such as in the case of college accreditation.

Ms. Deanna White asked why local grocery stores do not sell UTSA t-shirts and other UTSA items. Dr. Romo replied that UTSA is a young university, and does not currently have an official vendor to sell those items. Dr. Ambrosino suggested that Ms. White contact Ms. Lynn Hickey, Director of UTSA Intercollegiate Athletics regarding this issue.

Dr. El-Kikhia raised concerns regarding the UTSA Library. He suggested that a task force be developed to raise community awareness regarding the library’s needs. Dr. Romo mentioned that the State of Texas is emphasizing the development of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math buildings across the UT System. He agreed that the UTSA Library currently has needs that should be met. Dr. Ambrosino added that Dr. David Johnson, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Support, will be implementing a national search for a Dean of the Library. She also noted that Dr. Johnson is currently working to renovate library space. This will include an information commons area that will house additional computers and space for student group work. Mr. John McGowan, Associate Vice Provost for Information Technology will bring in a professional consultant to aid in the renovation of the library.

VI. Adjournment