The regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2008-2009 was held March 17, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the University Room (BB 2.06.04) with Sandy Norman, Secretary of The General Faculty, presiding.

I. Call to order and taking of attendance

   Present: Alberto Arroyo, Carolyn Cochran, Margie DeYoung, Mansour El-Kikhia, Matt Ellison, Robert Garza, Scott Kabrich, Anne, Macintosh-Speights, John McCray, Patricia Morehead, Sandy Norman, Ricardo Romo, Shirley Rowe, Gabriel Salas, Alan Shoho, Irina Solovyova

   Absent: John Frederick (excused), Marjie French, Daniel Gelo (excused), Christina Gomez (excused), David Johnson, Kerry Kennedy, Goutham Menon (excused), Jude Valdez, Shannon Krueger, Betty Travis, Jermaine Vesey, Travis Weissler, Deanna White (excused)

II. Approval of Minutes

   The minutes were approved.

II. Reports

   A. President’s Report – Dr. Ricardo Romo

   President Romo reported on the current legislative session. The Economic stimulus plan is causing chaos in Austin because there is a lot of money coming into Texas and not coming into Texas.

   President Romo reported that all 38 Universities will receive approximately 4 million dollars of Economic stimulus.

   President Romo gave an update on the bill for allowing firearms on campus. He is not in support of this bill and claims that it will more than likely not be passed.
President Romo stated that SACS Accreditation is in the process, and Dr. Sandy Welch is doing a great job working on this.

President Romo reported on enrollment management. There has not been a huge difference in enrollment. We do not have room at our campus to take on additional students. We have a lack of space and in the future we will be capped at 30,000 students.

B. Secretary – Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Norman briefly discussed that the Faculty Senate is not in favor of the bill for firearms on campus. Also, there needs to be changes made to the bylaws. Staff members such as advisors should be joined together as a council to discuss issues.

C. Provost – Dr. John Frederick

Dr. Frederick did not report because he was unable to attend the meeting.

D. Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

Dr. El-Kikhia briefly reported that President Romo and Dr. Frederick have approved two Faculty Senate resolutions:

1) Opposition to allowing concealed handguns on campus.
2) Support for continued internet & library access for UTSA retirees.

Dr El-Kikhia also encouraged faculty to make use of the expanded preventive medicine programs, which include full coverage for expensive screenings, such as colonoscopies.

E. Chair of Staff Council- Shirley Rowe

Ms. Rowe mentions the topic of discounts for UTSA faculty and staff. UTSA employees should be granted discounts at restaurants, car dealerships, and other vendors outside of campus.

F. Student Government President – Ms. Christina Gomez

Ms. Gomez was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a representative to give a report on the following:

1. Resolutions (budget and student financial aid)
2. Mayor campaign
3. Library upgrades have been successful
4. Student BOR meeting Friday
IV. Unfinished Business

None

V. New Business

VI. Questions to the President/Provost

Patricia Morehead had concern about the compensation for Housekeeping staff members. They are being compensated as little as $8.00 dollars an hour. They should be compensated a higher pay rate as well as other underpaid staff members.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.