The regular meeting of the University Assembly for the academic year 2008-2009 was held November 25, 2008 at 3:00 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, Matt Ellison, John Frederick, Robert Garza, Daniel Gelo, Christina Gomez, Scott Kabrich, Anne, Macintosh-Speights, Gouthan Menon, Patricia Morehead, Sandy Norman, Ricardo Romo, Shirley Rowe, Gabriel Salas, Irina Solovyova, Betty Travis, Deanna White

Absent: Mansour El-Kikhia (excused), Marjie French, David Johnson (excused), Kerry Kennedy, John McCray (excused), Goutham Menon, Jude Valdez, Shannon Krueger, Jermaine Vesey, Travis Weissler

II. Approval of Minutes

There are no previous minutes to approve.

II. Reports

A. President’s Report – Dr. Ricardo Romo

President Romo reported on campus housing. A survey is being conducted to determine how many housing facilities are needed on campus. Many universities in Texas use the 20% rule. For example, if there are 30,000 students, then approximately 6,000 beds are needed. As the numbers of students increase, UTSA we will be able to have a complete housing facility.

President Romo reported that by the 2010-2012 academic year, UTSA will be in great need of housing for students. Dr. Romo continued to discuss housing ideas and options for the upcoming future.
President Romo briefly discussed the diners on campus. The need for new diners on campus was in high demand. It was necessary to find out what the students wanted, and then try to meet their needs. For example, Panda Express has been a great success.

President Romo discussed the new UC Phase II. Inside the UC there was a ballroom built that is mainly used for breakfast and lunch meetings as well as special events.

Legislative issues that were discussed are as follows:

- The state of Texas reported $7 billion dollars in damage from Hurricane Ike
- The state surplus is between $12-14 million dollars
- There is not enough teaching space; thus, more classroom space has been requested
- Additional faculty and office spaces are needed
- Additional grant funding is needed for students and higher education

President Romo reported on the UTEP meeting. There are 25 acres of land that will be used for UTSA baseball, track and field and other athletics, and the President also noted that the county gave UTSA $22 million dollars. The master planners are extremely excited about the green space, and are hoping to present the plans for the athletics facilities during the spring.

President Romo gave an update on the UTSA football team. The campus is expanding as a whole, and the students as well as the City of San Antonio would like to see a football team at UTSA. The next six months are crucial to the decision making process. If there are enough pledges made then UTSA can hire a football coach as soon as possible.

B. Secretary – Dr. Sandy Norman

Dr. Norman briefly discussed why exactly the University Assembly is joined together. Faculty, staff and students are brought together to discuss different topics and issues being dealt with at UTSA.

C. Provost – Dr. John Frederick

Dr. Frederick reported on the Implementation plan. They are in process of making changes and finalizing the plan.

Dr. Frederick also reported on three QEP- Quality Enhancement Plans. The plans include service learning, quantitative literacy and graduate proposal.

HOP changes are still being worked on through the Faculty Senate. Changes and revisions will be forthcoming.
D. Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Mansour El-Kikhia

Dr. El-Kikhia did not report due to previous meeting commitment.

E. Chair of Staff Council- Shirley Rowe

Ms. Rowe reported on the UT System Employee Advisory Council meeting. She announced that UT System has stated there has been growth on campus and are reviewing the wellness issue. They are in the process of re-writing the bylaws.

F. Student Government President – Ms. Christina Gomez

Ms. Gomez reported that the early polling site here on campus was a huge success. The numbers of the voters will be calculated so we can continue doing this in the future. There is a “Go green” campaign in the works. Aramark catering is willing to listen and make changes to on-campus dining, for example, having a $1 dollar menu. The student bill of rights is still in progress and should be finalized in the near future.

Ms. Gomez also reported that at the last Board of Regents meeting, Bill Dowery was extremely impressed with the student life on campus. She would like to encourage all professors to use old editions of textbooks instead of bundling up on new books to help students save money.

IV. Unfinished Business

None

V. New Business

VI. Questions to the President/Provost

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.