

Minutes of the Undergraduate Assembly, February 28, 2017
The University of Texas at Arlington

The Undergraduate Assembly met in regular session on Tuesday, February 28 at 2:15 p.m. in the UC San Jacinto/Neches/Perdenales. Provost, Ron Elsenbaumer presided.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Present</u>
Carla Amaro-Jimenez	x
Enid Arvidson	
Pranesh Aswath	
Laura Baker	x
Anne Bavier	
Bonnie Boardman	x
Bruce Bower	x (Ericka Freeman)
Jeanean Boyd	x (Patricia Plumer)
Daniel Cavanagh	x
Elizabeth Cawthon	x
Lynn Cope	x
Peter Crouch	x (Lynn Peterson)
Danish Dawood	x
Venkat Devarajan	
Angela Dougall	x
Teresa Doughty	
Nan Ellin	x (Douglas Klahr)
Ronald Elsenbaumer	x
Sergio Espinosa	x
Jeanne Gerlach	
Ruth Gornet	x
Kevin Gustafson	x
Qing Hao	x
Ann Healy	x
Rod Hissong	x
Holly Hungerford-Kresser	x
Seiji Ikeda	x
Raymond "Joe" Jackson	
Richard Jimmerson	
Morteza Khaledi	
Joslyn Krismer	x
Andrew Kruzic	x
Diane Lange	x
Joohee Lee	x
Mary Jo Lyons	x
Madan Mehta	
Nancy Michael	x (Bonnie Boardman)
Laura Mydlarz	
Joshua Nason	x
Lynn Peterson	x

Bradley Pierce	
Regina Praetorius	x
Scott Ryan	
Brent Sasley	
Don Schuman	
Barbara Shipman	x
Chandra Subramanian	x
Amy Tigner	x (Tim Morris)
Mark Tremayne	
Ramgopal Venkataraman	x
Jingguo Wang	
Pamela White	x
Abu Yilla	
Gergely Zaruba	x
Jennifer Zhang	

Meeting called to order 2:32 p.m.

Welcoming remarks/Approval of October 4th Minutes

Dr. Elsenbaumer discussed the recent hiring freeze. UTA is providing information to governor's office about our needs and timelines, especially regarding the urgent hiring needs for this semester, summer and fall. Dr. Karbhari has submitted requests for faculty, staff, and student hires but we haven't heard anything back regarding those decisions. Governor did release the freeze on workstudy students paid from federal or state funds. UTA is also trying seeking clarification on hires that start after September 1. According to Jean Hood, graduate research assistants and post-doc fellows on federal funds may be hired. More information will be provided as it is received from the Governor's office.

Dr. Elsenbaumer also discussed the upcoming SACS Certification of Colleges. UTA is going through the reaffirmation process now. Last fall we got compliance report from SACS, outlining areas of concern and recommendations. The SACS team will be on site April 4-6. They will be looking at the 10 cited issues plus additional information at that time. All administrators need to be present on campus during those days of the site visit. Ten years ago they made visits to individual departments. Departments should be prepared to give information to reviewers. Reviewers will be working on site for 2.5 days in the UC. Our intent is to have information at the ready. Please be prepared and cooperative with the reviewers. After the on-site visit, they will most likely request more information, and a final decision will be made at the board meeting in December 2017.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve from Barbara Shipman, second Chandra Subramanian, 1 abstain, all others approved

QEP

Holly Hungerford-Kissinger and Danish Dawood will present information about the QEP since Nakia left. The focus is experiential learning in the framework of five distinguishing activities.

Leadership

Undergraduate Research

Global Engagement

Community Engagement

Career Preparedness

Part of the QEP is marketing campaign. Bookmark with FAQs, QR codes. Asked committee to review the flyer and try out the QR codes.

The goals and desired outcomes of the QEP were discussed. Students should participate in at least 3 of the 5 distinguishing activities which facilitate critical thinking, team work and communication skills. Skills result in employment opportunities, better college experience, better GPA, enrollment in graduate school, and a better overall college experience.

These things are already happening on campus but there is no ecosystem to connect them. QEP will be rolled out to FTFT freshman in year 1. In year 2, the QEP will be introduced to transfer students.

Committee is still working through how students get recognized for achieving the 3 out of 5 goals. Need a tracking system. Blackboard, badges, online portfolio are all being considered.

Q: Are all these activities the only ones that fit?

A: No - we are compiling a more exhaustive list.

Q: What is the mechanism to decide if something fits or not?

A: A small steering committee will review the activities as they arise. This is an iterative process and will grow and improve over time. There is a diagram online about the org chart for the steering committee etc.

Q: Is there a more a brief document that outlines the program in a summary fashion?

A: The document is 30+ pages. Yes, the website is being redone now.

Is participation a requirement or a voluntary activity? Looking for some way to make it a requirement.

Intent of developing the QEP is not to implement the initiative before SACS comes to campus. It is a proposal of what we are going to do. The QEP will technically launch in Fall 2017. There is still time for refinement and feedback. Want to spread the word through the campus community - especially students. Committee is still looking for ways to make it beneficial for a student by including an e-portfolio. That is the advantage mentioned in the name - the maverick advantage. Some concerns from the faculty senate including that some initiatives are curricular decisions. As we get in the implementation phase, those should go through the undergraduate assembly - the curriculum body. We are looking at the curriculum and what is already happening and highlighting it as a maverick advantage activity. We need the faculty to start putting forward the things you are already doing as a high impact practice.

Would like to provide a central repository for all the things the students are doing. Not just collection, but dissemination. In a few years, students and faculty will have a point of dissemination for all these activities.

Change in Bylaws

In the November meeting we discussed an amendment to Section IV. B. 3 of the bylaws.

Current: A summary agenda shall be furnished to each administrative office of the University at least five days prior to the date of the Assembly meeting at which the agenda is to be considered.

Proposed: A summary agenda shall be furnished to each administrative *and academic* office of the University at least five days prior to the date of the Assembly meeting at which the agenda is to be considered.

Dr. Gornet moved to approve the change. Dr. Venkataraman seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

Calendar review subcommittee update.

Subcommittee was convened to examine the calendar issues. The task of the subcommittee was to inform. The information is organized from less impact to most impact.

Student Congress met with Dr. Karbhari to discuss having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off. He articulated 3 reasons: Security concerns, operational problems, schedule alignment with other colleges in the area.

To address the concerns, student reps contacted the police chief, John Hall, and Lisa Nagy. None reported serious impact to security, operations, or calendar. When large percentage of student body wants to travel safely, it should be considered. Having Wednesday off also works better for parents with kids in school. However, missing Wednesday might have a negative impact on attendance on Monday and Tuesday of that week.

Curriculum Committee

A list of all approved changes, adds, and deletes for all colleges was presented to assembly (attached).

Dr. Nason moved to approve the changes. Dr. Subramanian seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm.