

UAM ASSEMBLY MINUTES

March 13, 1997

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The chair of the Assembly, Paul Francis, called the UAM Assembly to order at 3:26 p.m. in the MCB Auditorium. On a motion by Linda Webster and a second by Larry Harris, the body voted to approve the minutes of the December 3, 1996 meeting.

Committee Reports

Academic Appeals Committee. Baylor Guy, committee secretary, reported that the committee met five times (three times physically and twice in a virtual setting by e-mail link) since the last report to the Assembly. The committee reviewed 23 cases, with 2 requiring no action, 11 being approved, and 10 cases receiving denials. Guy made a motion, seconded by Bobby Medlin, that the Assembly accept the reported actions. The motion carried.

Curriculum and Standards Committee. Wayne Poniewaz, committee chair, discussed several actions taken by C & S: 1) in Speech, under the non-teaching major, a change in **Interpersonal Communication** from the required course list to the elective list and **Communication and Organizations** from the elective to required list; 2) in Natural Sciences--drop **Comparative Anatomy** from the Biology Major and Minor and add **Cell Molecular Biology**; 3) changed **Evolutionary Biology** from a 1 to a 2 credit hour course; 4) added **Mammalian Anatomy Lab**; and 5) approved the Academic Calendar. Poniewaz talked about requiring a true Dead Day: 36 out of 68 liked it the way it is; 17 out of 68 wanted to change; thus, no change was made. Poniewaz made a motion, seconded by David Ray, that the Assembly accept the report. The motion carried.

As a special order of business under the purview of the Curriculum and Standards Committee, Ray made a motion, seconded by Larry Harris, that the Assembly approve dispensing with the normal rules of requiring a catalog issue to pass through C & S. The motion carried.

Dr. Lassiter took the podium to discuss the importance of this Special Order of Business regarding the Catalog listing of "Graduation with Honors." Under the present catalog listing there is no requirement of a minimum number of hours in residence or type of degree specified to graduate with honors. The Academic Council recommended that we specify the language to graduate with honors with an associate degree to "Honors," which would not use the Latin distinctions. The baccalaureate degree would offer the Latin distinction of cum laude, summa cum laude, or magna cum laude. The associate degree would require a minimum of 3.50 GPA cumulative with a minimum of 30 hours in residence at UAM. For the baccalaureate degree a minimum of 60 hours at this university would be required. After some discussion Ray made the motion, seconded by Blackmon, that the Assembly accept the change. The motion carried.

Student Affairs. Shannon Fleming, committee chair, stated that the student affairs committee recommends for the Assembly's approval a new organization called the International Student

Organization. The purpose of this group is to build friendship and cross-cultural understanding between International and American students at UAM. After some discussion, Fleming made a motion, seconded by Jerry Webb, that the Assembly accept the new organization. The motion carried.

Assessment Council. Debbie Bryant, council chair, requested that everyone review the "Assessment Update" sheet. November CAAP exam results were listed on a handout. Students scored close to the national averages and our students were within 1% of the standard deviation. A complete summary report is available at the Assessment Office. The next test will be given the week of April 8. In this pilot study program of testing, calculators will be used by only half of the students chosen by last digit of social security numbers. Those that will not use calculators will be tested on Tuesday and Wednesday of the stated week. Those that will use calculators will be tested on Thursday and Saturday. All students will be able to use calculators once the pilot program of the CAAP exam is complete. Most types of calculators can be used. However, students can't use laptop computers, noisy calculators, or calculators that require an external power supply, i.e., wall plug. Testing will be in Game Room at UAM.

The Assessment council will meet again March 27, 1997. Please communicate concerns to any CASAA member.

Administrative Reports

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jack Lassiter. Dr. Lassiter thanked everyone for their work on the new catalog. April 1, 1997, is the deadline date to send the catalog to the printer. All changes made today will be in this new catalog. The blueline copy will be available at a later date for the unit head's review, with changes at that point costing extra.

The Retention task force--headed by Mr. Roiger and Ms. Kirst--has recommended Cluster scheduling and this has been adopted for the Fall 1997 semester using sample groups. Cluster schedule Group A will consist of students with an ACT of 13 to 18. They will be grouped into four classes: math, speech, English, and college skills. Cluster schedule Group B will consist of students with an ACT of 19 and above not enrolled in remedial courses. They will be grouped into three classes. All this is purely voluntary and these students will need to preregister for this program this summer. The next meeting for cluster grouping is March 28, 1997, at 2 p.m. at the Babin Business Center at 3:15 p.m.

The Mentorship Program will be introduced this fall. Volunteer faculty and staff will take 7 to 10 incoming freshman to work with individually in order to help retain students. More to come on this at a later date.

The next First Thursday Program will be held April 10, 1997, at the Auditorium from 12 - 2 p.m. The topic will be the "New Public University," a panel discussion live via satellite.

Dr. Eric Sundell has stepped down from the Division Chair's position, effective July 1, in the Math & Science unit. That position will be taken over by Dr. John Annulis. Debbie Bryant will take the position vacated by Annulis--Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Other changes will be announced at another time.

Chancellor, Dr. Fred Taylor. Dr. Taylor started by mentioning appropriations: Governor's proposal is the Revenue Stabilization Act, which impacts Category A, in which he plans to maintain the existing budget with no increases. The new bill hasn't passed yet and any new money in category A stated in the newspaper might be different than what actually comes out of the legislature (mainly because the Governor thinks it's too much). Two-year colleges have become very popular and will pick up four times as much money as a 4-year colleges. Four-year schools will receive an increase, but it's earmarked. The legislative session has been extended for another week and the Governor will probably present his Revenue Stabilization Act, just as the legislators will present theirs. Hopefully they will come to some happy medium.

Regarding salary: a modest amount for salary increases of 1.5% for non-classified and 2.8% for classified. This money is line item earmarked. We will get a little more to balance the budget and will open the year with a balanced budget. The only other money we will get is new program money that's also earmarked.

The Welfare Reform Bill ought to be of interest to us. That's going to require the State to put 22,500 people on the payroll during the first year of implementation or the state will be penalized 25% of its welfare funds. Thus, higher education institutions might have to start hiring some people. The state's going to have to come up with something or lose its funding all together.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) The Faculty Excellence Awards system needs to be reviewed and needs volunteers.
- 2) The Advising Handbooks have been sent out. Comments are welcome.
- 3) The Committee on Committees survey will be sent out after spring break.

Announcement and Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m. by Paul Francis.

Respectfully submitted,

Baylor C. Guy

Secretary of the Assembly

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