

**PRESIDENT'S ROUNDTABLE MEETING
OCTOBER 27TH 2008
REPORT**

The President opened his remarks by giving an update on the Natural Gas Drilling project on Campus. The preparation to start drilling will be completed in six (6) weeks and actual production will begin at the start of the next semester. They are estimating that the University will receive between 15-100 million dollars over the next decade. The funds from this project will be used for the following:

1. Merit-based scholarship and other forms of assistant to students
2. Money to attract and to keep the best faculty within the university
3. Implement project improvements according to Campus master plan
4. Use as leverage to attract outside donations

On Nov 18 will release a President report to be handed out. It will be an annual report geared mainly for an external audience. It will detail the university accomplishments, and the like to be shared with family and prospective students.

Encourage students and faculty to attend Diversity lecture series. The next one will be on November 17th.

He also encouraged people to vote. There is a polling place on campus. The idea behind this is for UTA to be a permanent polling place. To achieve this there has to be a high turnout to show the authorities that it is a good investment.

The Provost & VP for Academic Affairs, Prof Bobitt, was introduced. He stated that UTA has made significant progress under President Spaniolo. They are currently striving to make UTA a Tier I University. He however stated that even though UTA is attracting students with very high scores into the undergraduate programs, the graduation rates for these students is very low. So he asks that other students should encourage these students to be involved in campus activities. Also student leaders should act as role models for them. These usually enable other to succeed. They are also looking at the idea of opening a liberal arts (General Studies) program for students who are unable to get into established programs.

During question time I asked if there are any programs afoot to provide assistant to graduate students for research and also to graduate faculty members. If the University is to become a Tier I university the quality of its faculty, graduate students and research being produced will be the key. The President stated that the money from the Gas drilling will also go to providing assistantships to graduate students. Currently they are providing graduate tuition remissions. They will try to increase those also. Prof. Bobbitt also added that they are currently comparing the GTA and GRA stipends being given here and across other universities. They will like to bring the UTA stipends a par with those provided in other universities.

ALIE P. KOROMA (GSS PR DIRECTOR)