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COALITION RESPONSE TO ULTIMATUM

AUSTIN—The Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education today issued the following statement in response to the ultimatum given to UT Austin President Bill Powers that he resign or be fired:

“We are profoundly disturbed by the recent turn of events. A surprise ultimatum delivered by the Chancellor then leaked to a political activist supportive of Regent Wallace L. Hall Jr. and Governor Rick Perry, is deeply troubling and has no place in the governance of one of our state's most important institutions.

“President Powers is a widely respected university president who is highly regarded by students, alumni, business leaders, faculty and numerous elected officials. He has presided over one of the most productive and historic times in the history of The University. Under his tenure the institution has recruited world-class faculty, conducted ground-breaking research, achieved record-breaking philanthropic giving, and developed and invested in smart, innovative and forward-thinking tools to help better educate Texas’ diverse student population—not to mention breaking ground on the Dell Medical School, a long-held vision for the campus.

“His achievements and stature have earned him the chairmanship of the prestigious consortium of public and private research universities, the Association of American Universities, a rare honor afforded only to the most outstanding and respected academicians and administrators in the country.

“As evidenced by his offer of a graceful departure at the end of the legislative session and academic year, President Powers has consistently acted in the best interests of The University while others seem more interested in fostering dissent and destruction.

“UT Austin is a Texas treasure invested in and owned by the people of Texas. It is our sincere hope that the Chancellor will veer from this current course and work collaboratively with President Powers on a productive timeline for departure that puts first the best interests of The University of Texas at Austin.”

About the Coalition

The Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education was launched in the summer of 2011 by a group of concerned citizens who believe strongly in the power of higher education to transform lives, build our economy and shape Texas’ future. Formed in response to a growing concern over recommendations being floated that could have long-term damaging effects on our institutions of higher learning, the Coalition hopes to advance a thoughtful, constructive and transparent dialogue around higher education in Texas, seeking to improve the quality educational opportunities for all Texans. For more information on the Coalition and information on higher education in Texas, please visit:

www.TexasEducationExcellence.org

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