



June 24, 2014

Mr. Paul Foster
Chairman, Board of Regents
University of Texas System
Ashbel Smith Hall, Suite 820
201 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman Foster,

For 129 years, the Ex-Students' Association of the University of Texas at Austin has existed to harness, channel, and further ignite the collective energy and goodwill of UT alumni and friends in service of the university we love so much. We are UT-Austin's champions, and we devote ourselves to advancing its academic mission and constitutional mandate. This year we will award more than 700 scholarships to UT students for a record-breaking total of \$3.2 million. We will welcome up to 1,200 incoming freshmen to our extended orientation camp, Camp Texas, to develop a deep devotion to our university at the beginning of their college careers. More than 149 Texas Exes chapters and networks around the world will unite the university's friends and supporters in over 1,400 events per year, an average of four per day every day of the year. And our award-winning magazine, the *Alcalde*, will continue to document the accomplishments and scholarship of UT-Austin students, alumni, and faculty.

We write to you today as the board of directors for the Texas Exes to applaud and thank you for the leadership you have shown in addressing governance practices at the University of Texas System Board of Regents. We have watched over the past three years as fractured governance has led to conflict, unprecedented distraction, wasted effort, enormous costs, and missed opportunities. As officers of the Association, we can assure you that we are communicating the dismay of many loyal Texas Exes. The board's mission is to champion the university, and its resolve is to support this administration. As people who care deeply for the University of Texas and for higher education broadly, we are encouraged by your corrective work to make the board operate as one and speak with a unified voice in governing our university.

The University of Texas System Regents Rule 10101, Section 4, concerning how regents are to interact with UT System faculty, staff, and administration offered encouragement as a way forward, but does not seem to address the main concern of initiating investigations of component universities. Too often it has appeared that the decision to investigate is left to a single regent without the transparency of a full public board discussion of the necessity, cost, or collateral damage.

Furthermore, it is obvious to us, to the general public, and to the legislature that on several occasions, individual regents are embarking on investigations which go well beyond communicating with university personnel. We urge the full board to amend the Regents' Rules to ensure that investigations are decisions of the board, so that the public can be assured that the decision is deliberate, prudent, transparent, and in the best interests of the institutions, and not just for the interest of individual members.

The University of Texas at Austin, the UT System, and the state of Texas have enormous positive momentum. The creation and construction of the Dell Medical School, the selection of a new chancellor, the building of a medical school



in the Rio Grande Valley, and our state's fast-growing economy place us into a position to make real gains nationally and internationally. For much too long, the news of these and other very positive accomplishments have been overshadowed by headlines of discord and discontent.

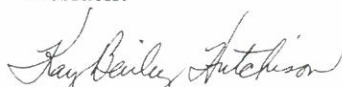
We thank you for charting a course toward better governance. It has the capacity to lead to great success, and is a positive sign to all who care about the University of Texas at Austin and higher education. And then, the people of the State of Texas would have reason again to unite to celebrate the University of Texas System and its institutions.

Respectfully yours,

The Texas Exes Board of Directors



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President



Kay Bailey Hutchison
President-Elect



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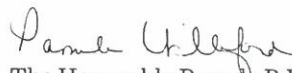
Mrs. Judy Tate



Mr. Lawrence Temple



Mr. Jeffrey E. Tsai



The Honorable Pamela P. Willeford



Mr. Mark J. Williams



Mr. Darrell R. Windham

cc:

The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas
The Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor of Texas
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House
Francisco Cigarroa, Chancellor of the University of Texas System
William C. Powers, President of the University of Texas at Austin

