March 25, 2008

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
WMB 2.102
Campus Mail Code: F9500

Dear Dr. Greninger,

I am returning to committee the "Admissions and Registration Committee Proposed Recommendations for Change in Enrollment as a Nondegree Seeker" (D 3798-3800). It was submitted to the Provost Office on June 29th, 2005 by the Office of the Faculty Council and due to concerns raised about the proposal and delays caused by personnel changes in the Provost Office staff, it remains unapproved. I recommend that it be returned to the Admissions and Registration Committee for reconsideration in light of the concerns, which I will list in this letter, and any considerations that may have developed since the time of its submission.

In a review by Keith Baird, Assistant to the Director of Admissions, the following concerns were raised about the "Proposed Recommendations for Change in Enrollment as a Nondegree Seeker":

1) With potentially twelve different sets of nondegree admission criteria, applicants would gravitate toward the colleges/schools with more liberal requirements, even ones in which they do not principally want to study. This could unduly burden other units with students who are really interested in other coursework.

2) Nondegree undergraduate applicants currently are pooled with degree seeking transfer students for admission purposes. Space for transfers is rather limited and competition seems to effectively control the number of externally admitted nondegree students. (The proposal does not address continuing/returning UT degree holders enrolled on a nondegree basis, who may outnumber degree holders from other institutions.)

Mr. Baird noted that there is possible merit in the idea of reviewing nondegree seekers at the end of their second long semester before they are allowed to continue and this may free up space for new students by limiting the duration of some nondegree seeking students’ enrollment.
Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Terri E. Givens, Ph.D.
Vice Provost and Associate Professor
Frank C. Erwin, Jr. Centennial Honors Professor

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