May 16, 2011

Dr. Steven Leslie  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
MAI 201 (G1000)

Mrs. Patricia Ohlendorf  
Vice President for Legal Affairs  
MAI 102 (G4800)

Dear Steve and Patti:

The Faculty Council has submitted to President Powers the enclosed “Proposed Changes from the Committee on Committees to Increase General Faculty Standing Committee Terms of Service to Three Years,” *Documents of the General Faculty* 8664. This legislation was approved by the Faculty Council at its meeting of May 9, 2011. Prior to making his decision, the president would like to receive from each of you a written recommendation regarding this legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanking you for your help, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Roeckle  
Deputy to the President

CAR/am

Enclosure

cc: President William Powers, Jr.  
Dr. Sue Greninger, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council  
Ms. Debbie Roberts, Executive Assistant, Office of the General Faculty
May 10, 2011

William Powers Jr.
President
The University of Texas at Austin
MA1 400
Campus Mail Code: G3400

Dear President Powers:

Enclosed for your consideration are proposed changes from the Committee on Committees to increase General Faculty Standing Committees’ terms of service to three years (D 8664). This legislation was approved by the Faculty Council at its meeting on May 9, 2011. Final approval resides with UT System.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Sue Alexander Greninger
Secretary
The General Faculty and Faculty Council

Enclosure

SAG: dlr

xc: Steven Leslie, provost
    Charles Roekle, deputy to the president
    Patricia Ohlendorf, vice president, legal affairs
    Dean Neikirk, chair, 2010-11 Faculty Council
    Janet Staiger, past chair, 2010-11 Faculty Council
    Candice Fischbach, director, policy manager, policy office
DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

PROPOSED CHANGES FROM THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES TO INCREASE GENERAL FACULTY STANDING COMMITTEE TERMS OF SERVICE TO THREE YEARS

On behalf of the Faculty Committee on Committees (CoC), Dr. Megan Seaholm (history) submitted the following proposal to increase General Faculty Standing Committees' terms of service from two to three years. On March 22, 2010, the Faculty Council approved proposals from the Faculty Committee on Committees affecting terms of service, term limits, chairs, and chair elects (D 7976-7978). Provost Leslie submitted his recommendation for partial approval and partial disapproval of the eight proposals. Upon the provost's recommendation, President Powers returned the legislation as a whole to the committee for reconsideration. The revised proposal below will be voted on by the Faculty Council at its meeting on May 9, 2011. The secretary has classified this proposal as general legislation. Final approval resides with UT System.

Sue Alexander Greninger,
Secretary
The Faculty Council and General Faculty

PROPOSED CHANGES FROM THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES TO INCREASE GENERAL FACULTY STANDING COMMITTEE TERMS OF SERVICE TO THREE YEARS

*Handbook of Operating Procedures*
Chapter 1: Faculty Governance, Section IV: Standing Committees
B. Membership

1. Unless otherwise specified in Policy Memoranda 1.501, 1.502, and 1.503, appointments shall be for two-year staggered terms, commencing on the first class day of the fall semester. [terms of office for faculty members of standing committees shall be three years, commencing on the first class day of the fall semester, with one-third of the faculty membership appointed or elected each year. Faculty members are eligible for immediate reappointment or re-election to a new term of service, unless they have just served six or more consecutive years, in which case they must be off the committee for at least one year before serving on the committee again.]

Rationale: Currently, all but two standing committees have two-year terms, and members may be appointed for one additional two-year term. This legislation increases the term lengths of these committees to three years. In early 2010, the CoC, under the leadership of Professor Dominic Lasorsa (journalism), informed all standing committee chairs that it was reviewing term limits. The CoC said that it "wants to make sure that committees have continuity of memberships to facilitate efficient operations, but, at the same time, the CoC wants to make sure that committees have diversity of memberships, avoid stagnation, and encourage new ideas and vitality. The CoC hopes to strike a balance between these critical, yet sometimes conflicting goals." Overwhelmingly, committee chairs expressed concerns about membership continuity issues relating to their committees and cautioned that a lack of continuity was the most serious hindrance to the effective operation of their committees. The Committee concluded that one of the best ways to facilitate continuity is to move from two-year to three-year terms on most committees and does not believe that increasing term limits will inhibit diversity of membership.

Posted on the Faculty Council website (http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on May 4, 2011.