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 “Proposal to Clarify Rules Relating to the Elections of Vice Chairs and Chairs Elect of General Faculty Standing Committees,” Documents of the General Faculty 8665. This legislation was approved by the Faculty Council at its meeting on 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,

[Signature]

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
MAI 400
Campus Mail Code: G3400

Dear President Powers:

Enclosed for your consideration is a proposal to clarify rules relating to the elections of vice chairs and chairs elect of General Faculty Standing Committees (D 8665). 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 Roeckle, deputy to the president
    Gretchen Ritter, vice provost
    Dean Neikirk, chair, 2010-11 Faculty Council
    Alan Friedman, chair elect, 2011-12 Faculty Council
    Megan Seaholm, chair, Committee on Committees
    Candice Fischbach, director, policy manager, policy office.
DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

PROPOSAL TO CLARIFY RULES RELATING TO THE ELECTIONS OF VICE CHAIRS AND CHAIRS ELECT OF GENERAL FACULTY STANDING COMMITTEES

On behalf of the Faculty Committee on Committees (CoC), Dr. Megan Seaholm (history) submitted the following proposal to clarify the rules relating to the elections of vice chairs and chairs elect of General Faculty Standing Committees. 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 proposals 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

PROPOSAL TO CLARIFY RULES RELATING TO THE ELECTIONS OF VICE CHAIRS AND CHAIRS ELECT OF GENERAL FACULTY STANDING COMMITTEES

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

1. ...[During the first half of the spring semester the voting members of each committee shall elect a chair elect, who shall assume the office of chair on the first class day of the following fall semester for a term of one year.] Each General Faculty Standing Committee shall elect a chair elect or vice chair at the beginning of the fall semester. If the committee opts for a vice chair, then the chair elect shall be elected in the spring semester. The chair elect shall be elected no later than the last Friday in February. Faculty members of the committee whose terms of service extend through the following year or who are eligible for reappointment to the committee are eligible to be elected as chair elect. A chair elect whose term of service does not extend through the following academic year will be reappointed for an additional term. A faculty member shall serve no more than three consecutive years as chair on committees with three-year terms. A faculty member shall serve no more than five consecutive years as chair on committees with five-year terms. [During the first meeting of each standing committee in an academic year a vice chair will be elected by the committee.] Individuals on early retirement, phased retirement, or modified service shall not be eligible to serve on standing committees when the membership is elected.

Rationale: This updates the existing rules from 2005 legislation proposed by the CoC allowing for the option of having a chair elect for the entire year. The current rule states that chairs elect be elected during “the first half of the spring semester.” This legislation specifies an election deadline, which ensures that the CoC and the Faculty Council know who the chairs elect are before they nominate and appoint committee members. The CoC also believes that if General Faculty Standing Committee term lengths are increased from two to three years for all but one committee, then a limit should be placed on how long a single faculty member should lead that committee.

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