May 17, 2011

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

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

Mr. Shelby Stanfield
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Registrar
MAI 1 (M5506)

Dear Steve, Patti, and Shelby:

The Faculty Council has submitted to President Powers the enclosed "Proposal from the Educational Policy Committee for New One-Time-Exception Policy," Documents of the General Faculty 8666-8667. 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,

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 from the Educational Policy Committee for a new One-Time-Exception Policy (D 8666-8667). 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:dfr

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
Bill Beckner, chair, Educational Policy Committee
Shelby Stanfield, registrar
DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

PROPOSAL FROM THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW ONE-TIME-EXCEPTION POLICY

On behalf of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC), Professor Bill Beckner (mathematics) submitted the following proposal for the new One-Time-Exception (OTE) policy. The secretary has classified this proposal as general legislation, and it will be presented to the Faculty Council at its meeting on May 9, 2011. Final approval resides with UT System.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The Faculty Council and General Faculty

PROPOSAL FROM THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW ONE-TIME-EXCEPTION POLICY

Undergraduate students who [sic] may not have urgent, substantiated, nonacademic reasons will be allowed to drop a single class or withdraw from the University after the deadline to drop or withdraw for academic reasons under the provisions of the One-Time-Exception. The One-Time-Exception may be invoked only once during the student's entire undergraduate college career regardless of the college the student was enrolled in at the time the exception was allowed. The provisions of the One-Time-Exception are as follows.

General Provisions
1. The OTE does not apply to students in the Graduate School, the College of Pharmacy, the LBJ School of Public Affairs, the School of Law or the School of Information.
2. A student must request the One-Time-Exception from the student's dean's office by the last class day. Forms must be returned to the student's dean's office before the first day of final exams.
3. Any drop or withdrawal allowed under the One-Time-Exception will be subject to the same academic and financial aid rules governing other drops or withdrawals taken during the semester.

Provisions for Drops
1. The student must obtain the signature of the instructor on the form.
2. A student may not drop a class in which a final grade has been assigned. This will be verified by the student's dean's office with the instructor of the course.
3. A student may not drop a class if there are any pending investigations of scholastic dishonesty; this will be verified by the student's dean's office with the instructor of the course.
4. A student who has not completed two long semesters will be allowed to drop a course regardless of his or her current grade in the course.
5. A student who has completed at least two long semesters at the University of Texas at Austin may only drop a class if he or she has a grade of D+, D, D-, or F in the course. This will be verified by the student's dean's office with the instructor of the course.
6. Drops allowed under the provisions of the One-Time-Exception will be considered academic drops and will count toward the six-drop limit. Students who have reached the six-drop limit are not eligible to use the One-Time-Exception to drop a course.

Provisions for Withdrawals
1. Students who are requesting to use the One-Time-Exception for a withdrawal will be allowed to withdraw regardless of current grades in classes.
2. No instructors' signatures will be required on the form.
3. Pending scholastic dishonesty will be verified by the student's dean's office with the Dean of Students Office.

1 Friendly amendment approved by the Faculty Council on May 9, 2011.
Rationale: This proposal regarding OTE drops provides uniform policy across all colleges for this option that allows undergraduates to attempt challenging course schedules at early stages in their chosen program with a "safety-net" to have a one-time drop for those instances where the schedule proves too much, and the student failing a class (grade = D or F). For some programs this option might be used in the freshman year; for other programs it might occur in the sophomore or junior years. This option can only be used once.

This language in General Information was approved by the EPC with only one dissenting vote by a faculty member who on principle was opposed to allowing withdrawals except for non-academic reasons.

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