May 29, 2012

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

Dear President Powers:

In response to your letter dated May 17, 2012, the Faculty Council Executive Committee, on behalf of the Faculty Council and on a no-protest basis, approved the removal of the phrase "early retirement" from the 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

Enclosures

SAG:dlr

xc:  Steven Leslie, provost
       Charles Roeckle, deputy to the president
       Patricia Ohlendorf, vice president for legal affairs

Electronic copies via email:
       Gretchen Ritter, vice provost
       Dean Neikirk, chair, 2010-11 Faculty Council
       Alan Friedman, chair, 2011-12 Faculty Council
       Martha Hilley, chair, 2012-13 Faculty Council
       Nancy Kwallek, chair, 2011-12 Committee on Committees
       Candice Fischbach, director, policy manager, policy office
May 17, 2012

Dr. Sue Alexander Greninger
Secretary of General Faculty and Faculty Council
WMB 2.102 (F9500)

Dear Sue:

I write concerning the “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. Both Executive Vice President and Provost Steve Leslie and Vice President Patti Ohlendorf have reviewed the proposal and recommend its approval. However, in reviewing the proposal we noticed the final sentence of the current policy in the Handbook of Operating Procedures includes the phrase “early retirement.” This category of employment is no longer used at the University. I am prepared to approve the proposal with the removal of the phrase “early retirement.” Please let me know whether the Faculty Council concurs with this slight edit.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

William Powers, Jr.
President

WP/am
Enclosure

cc: Dr. Steven Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost
Mrs. Patti Ohlendorf, Vice President for Legal Affairs
Dr. Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President
Dr. Alan Friedman, Chair, Faculty Council
Ms. Martha Hilley, Chair Elect, Faculty Council
Ms. Debbie Roberts, Executive Assistant, Office 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 elect. A faculty member shall serve no more than five 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.

1 On May 29, 2012, the Faculty Council Executive Committee deleted the phrase “early retirement” since it is no longer used at the University.

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