January 30, 2013

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

Dear President Powers:

On Monday, January 28, Martha Hilley, chair of the Faculty Council, presented the report to create a new Student Honor Code and rename the current Honor Code to the University Code of Conduct (D 10167-10171). The Faculty Council took no action as the report was presented for their information only.

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

Sincerely,

Sue Alexander Greninger,
Signed on behalf of Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The General Faculty and Faculty Council

Enclosure

SAG:drl

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

Electronic copies via email:
    Martha F. Hilley, Faculty Council chair
CREATION OF A NEW STUDENT HONOR CODE AND RENAMING THE CURRENT HONOR CODE TO THE UNIVERSITY CODE OF CONDUCT

On behalf of the Faculty Council Executive Committee, Chair Martha F. Hilley (professor, music) submitted the following new Student Honor Code and the renaming of the current “Honor Code” to “University Code of Conduct.”

The Student Honor Code originated in the Senate of College Councils, and on October 18, 2012, the Senate adopted S.R. 1203 in support of the proposal (see Appendix A). On January 7, 2013, in consultation with the president, the Faculty Council Executive Committee discussed the student’s resolution and determined that the current Honor Code, which applies to all students, faculty, and staff, be renamed “University Code of Conduct” and from the resolution submitted by the Senate of College Councils, create a new Student Honor Code.

The secretary has classified this report as being of general interest. Chair Hilley will present the report at the Faculty Council meeting on January 28, 2013. No action required of the Faculty Council.1

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

Posted on the Faculty Council website (http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on January 14, 2013.

1 The Faculty Council was not asked to endorse the report. It was informational only.
CREATION OF A NEW STUDENT HONOR CODE AND RENAMING THE CURRENT HONOR CODE TO THE UNIVERSITY CODE OF CONDUCT

Core Purpose and Values [to remain unchanged]

Core Purpose

To transform lives for the benefit of society.

Core Values

Learning: A caring community, all of us students, helping one another grow.
Discovery: Expanding knowledge and human understanding.
Freedom: To seek the truth and express it.
Leadership: The will to excel with integrity and the spirit that nothing is impossible.
Individual Opportunity: Many options, diverse people and ideas, one university.
Responsibility: To serve as a catalyst for positive change in Texas and beyond.

Current Honor Code [to become the “University Code of Conduct”]

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness and respect toward peers and community.

Proposed Student Honor Code

As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the university and uphold academic integrity.

Failing to “uphold academic integrity” and, therefore, violating the Student Honor Code, is defined as committing an act of “academic dishonesty,” which, according to the university’s Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities (Appendix C, Chapter 11, “Student Discipline and Conduct,” Section 11-402, “Academic Dishonesty”)

... includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two classes without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act.
Appendix A

SENATE OF COLLEGE COUNCILS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

2201 Speedway A6210 • Austin, Texas 78712-0179 • (512) 471-3166 • Fax: (512) 471-3408 • www.ut senate.org

Senate of College Councils
September 20, 2012
S.R. 1203

IN SUPPORT OF A NEW HONOR CODE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

WHEREAS, The establishment of a university-wide honor code was for the clear purpose of improving the quality of our academic and social enterprise on campus; and,

WHEREAS, Former President Larry Faulkner and the university’s interest in an honor code stemmed from the “belief that we could become a much more powerful, much more useful university if we had a simple . . . effective means for reminding all of our members of their own interest in standards of integrity and civility”; and,

WHEREAS, The honor code of The University of Texas at Austin was intended to be a vital part of the university culture of integrity since its inception in 2004; and,

WHEREAS, The current honor code reads: “The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness and respect toward peers and community”; and,

WHEREAS, An Honor Code Task Force was established by President Bill Powers in the spring of 2012 to deliberate over the effectiveness of the honor code at the university; and,

WHEREAS, President Powers, along with the Task Force, determined that a new honor code should be created to meet the standards and values of integrity on campus; and,

WHEREAS, The forty-one word honor code is not currently an integral part of campus and academic life at the university; and,

1 Source: http://www.utexas.edu/president/past/faulkner/speeches/bc_042004.html
2 Source: ibid.
WHEREAS, The current honor code has failed to remind students, staff, and faculty of their interest in matters of integrity and civility as envisioned by President Larry Faulkner and students; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the current honor code be changed to more effectively promote a culture of integrity at the university; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the honor code of The University of Texas at Austin be changed to read: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the university and uphold academic integrity"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That failing to 'uphold academic integrity,' and therefore violating the Honor Code, be defined as committing an act of 'academic dishonesty' which the university's Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities defines as "including[], but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two classes without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the university make every effort to ensure that, when appearing in print, the honor code is accompanied by the core values of the university: "Learning, Discovery, Freedom, Leadership, Individual Opportunity, and Responsibility"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution of the Senate of College Councils be sent to: all college/school deans; William Powers, President; Charles Roco, Deputy to the President; Nancy Buzas, Deputy to the President; Steven Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost; Gage Paine, Vice; President for Student Affairs; Sonja Reagins-Lilly, Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Gretchen Ritter, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Faculty Governance; LaToya Hill, Associate Dean of Students for Student Conduct and Emergency Services; Brittany Linton, Student Ombuds ad interim; Martha Compton, Associate Director for Student Judicial Services and Coordinator of Academic Integrity; Leo Barnes, Associate Vice President for Legal Affairs; Geoffrey Leavenworth, Chief

1 Source: http://www.dailytexasonline.com/university/2012/06/15/powers-incorporate-student-input-change-honor-code
Communications Officer; Kathleen Mabley, Director of Brand Initiatives; Gary Sasswein, Director of Media Relations; Howard Prince, Loyd Hackler Endowed Chair in Ethical Leadership at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs; Martha Hillery, Chair of Faculty Council; Thor Lund, President of Student Government; Michael Redding, President of the Graduate Student Assembly; Whitney Langston, Student Conduct Advisory Committee; Leslie Cedar, Texas Exes CEO and Executive Director.

AUTHORS: Shahana Momin (Co-Chair, Academic Integrity Committee, Senate of College Councils) Peter Paul Wong (Co-Chair, Academic Integrity Committee, Senate of College Councils) Josh Fjelstad (Policy Director, Senate of College Councils) Michael Morton (President, Senate of College Councils)

SPONSOR: Senate of College Councils Leadership Team