MEMORANDUM

TO: Vice Presidents Council, Deans’ Council, Faculty Council Executive Committee, Staff Council Executive Committee, President’s Student Advisory Council

FROM: President William Powers, Jr.

DATE: March 18, 2013

SUBJECT: Adoption of a New Student Honor Code and a University Code of Conduct

In spring 2012, I appointed a Task Force on the Honor Code and Student Judicial Process. Dr. Linda Golden, the Marlene and Morton Meyerson Centennial Professor in Business, chaired the task force. I charged it with several tasks, among them to determine whether the University needed to reconsider the wording of the honor code to make it more succinct and more practical. At that time, the honor code read as follows:

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.

In its final report of May 29, 2012, the task force concluded the honor code did need to be more succinct and more practical and, in fact, suggested a wording. Having received the recommendations of the task force, I asked student leaders for advice on the wording of a new honor code.

In September 2012, the Senate of College Councils passed a resolution calling for the current honor code to be changed to promote more effectively a culture of integrity at the University. The intent was to replace the current honor code with the following new 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.

Appended to the proposed new code was an explanatory statement, which reads as follows:
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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 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.

Having reviewed the proposal from the Senate of College Councils and having discussed it with campus leadership, including students, faculty, staff, deans, and executive officers, I am approving adoption of the new code proposed by the Senate of College Councils. The new code replaces the current one as an honor code. However, by virtue of its wording, the new code is explicitly a “Student Honor Code.” Because it is important for all members of the University community—students, faculty, and staff—to conduct themselves in a manner to uphold the core values of the University, I am also approving adoption of the old honor code as the “University Code of Conduct.” To provide for smooth implementation of the codes in University publications and programming, the new “Student Honor Code” and “University Code of Conduct” will be effective with the start of the 2013-2014 academic year.

This memo supercedes the memo of February 6, 2013.

cc:  Dr. Steven Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost
     Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Senior Associate Vice President and Dean of Students
     Dr. David Laude, Senior Vice Provost for Enrollment and Graduation Management
     Dr. Kedra Ishop, Vice Provost and Director of Admissions
     Mr. Shelby Stanfield, Vice Provost and Registrar
     Ms. Debra Kress, Associate Vice President for Human Resources
     Mr. Geoffrey Leavenworth, Chief Communications Officer
     Mr. Lee Bash, Executive Director, University Events
     Ms. Candice Fischbach, Policy Manager
     Ms. Brenda Schumann, Associate Registrar
     Task Force on the Honor Code and Student Judicial Process