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December 16, 2013

Honorable Carol Alvarado
Co-Chair, House Select Committee on Transparency
in State Agency Operations
Room E2.810, Capitol Extension
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Honorable Dan Flynn
Co-Chair, House Select Committee on Transparency
in State Agency Operations
Room GN., Capitol Extension
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Co-Chairs Alvarado and Flynn:

Thank you for your December 10 letter to University of Texas System Regent Wallace Hall. We regret that we must respectfully decline your invitation for Regent Hall to testify before your Committee this week, as well as Mr. Hardin's December 13 invitation to be interviewed by the Transparency Committee's counsel.

Regent Hall informed the Transparency Committee on December 4 that he will make every effort to respond to the Committee's requests, provided that his testimony be covered by the same protections of a subpoena that have been granted to every other witness. We also requested that you provide two weeks' notice before his appearance may be compelled so he can prepare. We hope you will agree that this was a reasonable request given that the Transparency Committee previously said it would provide two-weeks' notice, that Regent Hall is the target of your investigation, and that the Committee has raised numerous issues about accountability processes at the UT System over which Regent Hall has no control, but must apparently be prepared to discuss.

The Transparency Committee voted to subpoena Regent Hall to appear on December 3, changed the hearing date to December 18-19, recalled the subpoena, and then dismissed Regent Hall's December 4 request for sufficient notice if he were to be compelled to appear on the new hearing date. Based on the confusion this causes about the Transparency Committee's intentions, and the

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Committee's motion to refer specific issues for possible criminal investigation, the only sound legal counsel is to caution Regent Hall against voluntary testimony before the Committee. Regent Hall has opted to be guided by this counsel.

Regent Hall has volunteered a number of times in the past to share his views with legislative Committees about the challenges and opportunities faced by the UT System. Though these offers have never been accepted, he remains interested in sharing his views, in collaborating with all policy makers on initiatives that will benefit the UT System, and in working with the committees to improve the transparency and accountability practices that should guide all UT System activities. He looks forward to opportunities to engage with all interested policy makers on these issues. Such engagements, however, must be under conditions that encourage open discussion and that provide reasonable protections for all participants against retribution for their views.

Yours Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Van Fleet", written in a cursive style.

Allan Van Fleet

cc: Committee Members
Stephen M. Ryan, Esq.
Anne Marie Turner, Esq.
Rusty Hardin, Esq.