

From: [Steve Hicks](#)
To: [Frederick, Francie](#)
Subject: Fwd:
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2013 7:24:32 PM

For your information only.

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thomas O. Hicks" <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 24, 2013 at 7:18:37 PM CDT
To: Steve Hicks <[REDACTED]>

Steve

I know there has been some confusion about my involvement last January to informally help you and several of the Regents to determine if an overture by Nick Saban's agent was real or was a rumor or hoax. My honest recollection of events are as follows:

Sometime around the New Year, you texted or emailed me from Australia to say that an agent had made contact to say Saban could have interest in UT. Over several emails or texts, I told you my 15 years in professional sports gave me the ability to "smoke it out" and see if there was any truth to it.

On Wednesday afternoon, January 5, I received a call from Wallace who told me he had a "very confidential" friend that had heard from Jimmy Sexton, Saban's agent, and that he was willing to have a call. Wallace told me several Regents were in the loop, including the Chairman. At that time, I had never heard of Jimmy Sexton, since he isn't active in MLB or the NHL. I offered to make the call to Sexton to Wallace. He told me he wanted to participate since it was an overture through his "confidential friend". We made plans to schedule the call at 7:30 that evening, which Wallace confirmed within an hour or so.

Wallace came to my home a little after 7 pm, and we talked it through prior to the call. We spoke on my home office speaker phone to Sexton for approximately 45 minutes. Both Wallace and I participated. Sexton confirmed that UT is the only job Nick would possibly consider leaving Alabama for, and that his success there created special pressure for him. We told Sexton that Mack had leadership's support to stay, and that I would go talk to him as a friend to see if Mack had any interest in retiring. I told him it would have to be Mack's idea, and that I really didn't know how Mack and Sally were feeling about the pressures of the job at this time.

Wallace told Sexton that UT leadership was most likely going to change during the year, and maybe the timing would be better a year or two later. Specifically, he made the statement the Bill Powers wouldn't be here at the end of the year.

I had lunch two days later with Mack and told him I was there as a friend, with no official capacity, and wanted him to know of Saban's interest if Mack wanted to make it his idea. Mack was adamant that he had no interest, and that he wanted to go out on top and leave UT in great shape. He told me he thought UT would be national championship caliber in two seasons. Mack was upset at Wallace for initiating this process. He called Joe Jamail for legal advice. I spoke with Joe later that evening and assured him I had gone to see Mack as his friend, and not as a representative of the BOR. I told Mack I was pleased to see his competitive instincts aroused and recommended he share his enthusiasm more with the fans.

The following day, I called Sexton and told him of Mack's position. Wallace thanked me for "everything I was doing for the University."

I never spoke of this to anyone except Mack, Wallace, Steve and a few close friends, until the AP story last week.

If anyone has any follow up questions, I will be happy to provide additional information.

TOH