

**From:** [Ed Zhang](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** A plea for an open ear.  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:14:04 PM

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Greetings Chancellor Cigarroa,

My name is Ed Zhang. I am writing to you today in regards to the further ability of President Bill Powers to remain as President of the University of Texas. I am a recent graduate from the McCombs School of Business and the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas. I hold dual degrees in Finance and Economics, and I am very proud of both of them. I understand that you and the Regents have your reasons for questioning President Power's capability to govern the university, but I am writing to say that I am fully confident that President Bill Powers has not only made tremendous improvements to the University, but has the potential to continue to do so.

Chancellor, I am not a native Texan. I was born in China and lived there for five years before I immigrated with family to Canada. There I was raised, and believed that there I would live my life until six years ago, when employment moved my family to Texas. I did not like it here at first. I wanted to get out as soon as possible, to find my fortunes further north, and to be rid of the heat, the humidity, and most of all to be rid of what I thought was a culture of academic backwardness. However, when the opportunity for me came to go elsewhere - I had received acceptances from UC Berkeley and University of Michigan, as well as other public institutions) - I decided, for reasons I didn't understand at the time, to stay in Texas and attend UT.

Today, four years later, I know realize that it was the right decision. These four years at the University of Texas have been the best four years of my life. UT nurtured me and helped grow personally, socially, and professionally. I learned firsthand the immensity of academic power Texas possessed, and the inspirational ability that the university had for bring out this potential and to turn it into something great. I experienced the passion and spirit that this great university through football games, philanthropic events, and youthful activism. I understood that what started there, could truly change the world. But above everything else, I realized after my four years at the University of Texas, that I truly loved Texas.

However, in light of recent events, I am very concerned about the path that my beloved university will take. I am worried that its greatest champion, a peerless leader who raised UT's greatness to even higher levels, is in danger of being deposed. I am worried that the direction we are headed in will not only damage the reputation of the University, but the quality of education its students. I am fearful that the vision the Regents and the State Government has for higher education in Texas will be against everything UT and other similar institutions have stood for.

Chancellor, I know that you are not trying to harm the University. I understand that what you and the Regents are doing are with the best of intentions. But I implore you to please listen. Listen to what the students are saying. Your actions now have direct impact on the value of their education later. Their voices are the most important voices out there, beyond any legislator, any regent, any university administrator. The students are those who make the University great, and those students are what makes everything that we are doing worth fighting for. The future

of this great state lies in the hands of students like us, who go out to the world and become our greatest champions. Listen to us, and hear what we say.

Chancellor, I stand with Bill Powers. The question is: will you?

Regards,  
Ed Zhang

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Ed Zhang  
Finance | Financial Markets and Banking  
McCombs School of Business  
University of Texas  
281. 685. 5589

**From:** [Franz Guerard](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:04:48 AM

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I support Bill Powers. This witch hunt needs to stop! The real villain in this soap opera is Walter Hall. He needs to be impeached! You would hope the Chancellor of this great university would listen to the voices of students, faculty, and alumni and not the political hacks at the root of this disgusting gambit.

Franz Guerard  
BBA '73  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Luke Kellogg](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers should not be asked to resign or fired  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 7:06:56 AM

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As a UT Alumni ( 86) , I want to voice my opinion that it would be a complete mistake to cause or ask Bill Powers to resign. Thanks you— Luke C Kellogg



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Per](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Cc:** [all gmc all gmc](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:41:15 PM

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,

I urge you to reconsider the ultimatum issued against President Powers.

Denying Bill Powers an opportunity to resign from his position in a coordinated fashion will be disruptive to the university in the short term. Moreover, it will damage the reputation of higher education in Texas permanently.

The situation has developed to a point where your legacy as an academic leader depends on your ability to protect the flagship institution of your system from the actions of some members of our Board of Regents. Their doings are guided by ideology, and not by a desire to act in the interest of all Texans who value quality public education.

Please regard this challenge as an opportunity to show strong leadership by deescalating the crisis!

Best wishes,  
Per Urlaub

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Per Urlaub, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Germanic Studies  
University of Texas at Austin

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:55:38 AM

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I am in favor of Bill Powers being allowed to serve until May 30, 2015.  
It would be in the best long-term interest of the  
university and of those that the university serves to allow Bill Powers  
to leave with his head held high.  
Marc Stewart BBA 1958

**From:** [Kari Banta](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Do not force Bill Powers out of UT  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:33:42 PM

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa:

As an alumna of the University of Texas at Austin I am very disappointed and angry about your ultimatum to Bill Powers. You demonstrate a willful lack of interest in what is best for the University and frankly I question your qualifications to be a Regent.

Do I need to list President Powers accomplishments at UT? The first medical school at a Tier 1 university in 50 years is only the latest significant accomplishment. His work has led to UT's status as one of the finest universities in the world, something I can say without any exaggeration.

I hold two degrees from UT, and your actions threaten to destroy the reputation of a place that is very dear to me on a personal and professional level. Please do not go forward with your threat to fire Bill Powers if he does not resign.

Respectfully,

Kari Banta  
MA Comparative Literature, 2000  
MS Community and Regional Planning, 2004

**From:** [Ryan Grosskopf](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** I support Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 7:54:46 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

Next to purchasing a home, tertiary education is the largest single investment most people make. Like other assets, this investment can increase or decrease in value after acquisition. I have degrees from two of UT's highest-ranked programs and I believe these investments have increased in value over the years as people like Bill Powers have continued to fulfill the University's obligation to be "of the first class." I have yet to hear a clear argument made for his removal and the imposition of Texas politics on the University system is damaging my investment.

If you believe that someone else could better fulfill the University's mission then make your case. Otherwise, these constant attempts to undermine Mr. Powers smack of little more than a personal vendetta.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Grosskopf  
BBA, 2002  
MS, 2011

**From:** [Audrey S](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** I support President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:05:05 PM

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,

As an alumna of The University of Texas, I would like to voice my utmost support for President Powers. I encourage you to consider the rapport that President Powers has with the distinguished faculty, staff, students, and alumni of The University of Texas, as well as his integral role in transforming the university into one of the most distinguished public universities in the United States. I urge you to let this be your guiding light, as personal and party politics have no place in higher education.

Thank you for acting in favor of the future of Texas by supporting President Powers, as well, now and in the future.

Best regards,  
Audrey Straus

**From:** [Zach Medlin](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Keep President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:59:04 PM

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I would like to express my support for President Powers. He is an asset to higher education and especially UT Austin.

Zach Medlin  
University of Texas  
B.S. 2005  
College of Communication

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Jake T](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Now is not the time  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:46:24 PM

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,

I humbly ask you to reconsider and rescind your demand for President Powers resignation. I have this right as an University of Texas Alumni, and I do not abuse it. Now is not the right time to see President Powers to the door.

Powers' firing or resignation will weaken the University and hurt her students Only for the University's strength and her students well-being ought Powers be sent away. That time may come, and it may come soon. But it is not now.

I wish you well and hope that you seek wise counsel and wisdom from outside your immediate circle, the Board of Regents, in this matter.

With respect and great hopes for your course  
of action and career,

Jacob Townsend

**From:** [Mary Scott Nabers](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Please continue your support of President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 6:56:22 AM

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Chancellor Cigarroa, I have long been an admirer of yours and I write to urge you to continue your support of President Bill Powers. I am a proud graduate of UT and a former statewide office holder in Texas who is ashamed of the actions of UT board members. I, like thousands of others, hope they are not allowed to politicize the hiring and firing of executives at this fine institution.

Mary

**Mary Scott Nabers**  
**President/CEO - Strategic Partnerships, Inc**  
**Co Founder - Gemini Global Group**  
**Author - [Collaboration Nation](#)**  
**Phone: (512) 531-3900**  
**[www.spartnerships.com](http://www.spartnerships.com) and [www.geminiglobalgroup.com](http://www.geminiglobalgroup.com)**

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**From:** [Steve Zach](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Please do not fire UT President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:52:22 AM

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,  
Please do not fire University of Texas President Bill Powers. There is no reason related to his performance as president why this should take place. He has been an excellent president for the university. A political firing hurts the image of the university and sets a precedent for involvement in university affairs by those who have motivations other than the best educational environment that we can offer to future residents of our state. It would be impossible to replace him with a candidate of his caliber and difficult to recruit top faculty. Please do not do lasting damage to the University of Texas reputation by firing someone who is obviously doing a good job.

Sincerely,  
Steve Zach (UT graduate 1989)  
2714 Mystic Cove Lane  
Pearland, Texas 77584

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:02:50 PM

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It is my understanding that an ultimatum has been delivered to President Powers to resign from the University. As a graduate, parent of a 2014 graduate, parent of a current student and foundation donor, I am appalled by these actions. The Regents' conduct with regard to President Powers continues to defy logic. I cannot imagine any scenario where this behavior is not viewed as petty and detrimental to the University. For years we have worked to increase the University's reputation and position as a elite institution and now these actions threaten to destroy these efforts. If the Regents truly have the best interests of the University in mind versus their own agenda, then they will back away from this demand and take a more reasoned and beneficial approach to the issues that have plagued the University for the last several years. We cannot possibly move forward if this small-minded attitude continues.

I implore you to act with the decorum fitting of your position and drop this unreasonable stance.

[REDACTED]  
Class of 1990

**From:** [Jane Clements Monday](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 7:42:32 AM

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Thank you for your service. Please negotiate a dignified exit for President Powers. Let him finish the many items he has left to do and lay the ground work for a successful transition. Please stand your ground and protect the University of Texas. The world is watching.

Sincerely,

Jane Monday

Jane Clements Monday  


**From:** [Tracy Ralston](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:56:08 AM

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Dear sir:

Please explain why you have unjustly given President Powers an ultimatum.

He is an outstanding man and even better leader and representative for our university.

Thanks,

William David Ralston, III

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Jesus Torres](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 11:30:08 PM

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Chancellor Ciggaroa,

I write to you this evening to share with you my support of William C. Powers as the president of my alma mater. He is as fine an educator as The University has ever seen and stands to leave the institution as one of its most effective and beloved presidents in history. I understand that the full details of the circumstances of your "fractured relationship" are known to few. I personally believe that one will not always see eye to eye with a person they work with or for or who works for you. I see the role of any managing board to place at the head of its institution a person who is effective, has a vision for the future that makes the institution better, and that acts decisively. Past that, the board's position is to support them. An objective look at President Powers' record will show that he has done exactly these things. While he may have ruffled yours and others' feathers, with all due respect, the people who matter, students, faculty, and alumni are almost unanimous in our support for President Powers.

I also understand that there are extenuating circumstances regarding admissions improprieties. These will all come to light and I'm certain that once all sides of the story are heard, there will still be conflicting information. This is disappointing on all levels, however the more disappointing rift in our state's higher education administration is over the view that The University of Texas at Austin should step down from its position as a leading research university to become a factory for cheaper, in every sense of the word, degrees that make students for work ready. As a Texas public high school education, this sickens me. We do not need to dumb down our academic pursuits to make students ready for the workforce. We continually raise the bar and push students to achieve more. This type of student is prepared to succeed in every aspect of their life and not just as a single serve employee. The jobs that students in both your system and mine will have do not even exist and if we do not train them much more strenuously on the "how" and "why" than the "who, what, where and when," they have no chance for success.

We in Texas are near the bottom of the country in education, but this is not the case at the highest level. It absolutely will be if you and the board bend to pressure from the legislators who have made the K-12 public school system the travesty that it is. I urge you to reconsider your position President Powers and I also urge you to stand up for our top tier university. The University of Texas at Austin fosters the missions of those who will change the world. Please guide Board of Regents to do the same.

Yours with the Utmost Respect and Sincerity,  
Jesus Torres  
UT-Austin BM 2004

**From:** [J&A McMullan](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 11:05:42 PM

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Dr. Cigarroa, the firing of Bill Powers would cause irreparable harm to UT's reputation, increased tension with legislators regarding the UT System, unnecessary unrest among faculty, students, and alumni, would make it difficult to recruit and retain excellent faculty. President Powers has advanced the university through endless stellar achievements, somehow cutting \$490 million from the university's budget while distinguishing UT by his presidency of the AAU. Please use your leadership to keep this President and to maintain the reputation of my distinguished alma mater. Ann McMullan, Class of 65

PS: we are so looking forward to having you [REDACTED] back in SA!!!

**From:** [Brandon Holcomb](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:37:55 PM

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Chairman Foster and members of the Board of Regents:

I have been deeply disturbed by the ongoing reports about the attempts to relieve President Powers of his duties as President of The University of Texas. I am especially disturbed by the recent reports about the Chancellor's ultimatum. Bill Powers has served The University and our state with distinction. The manner in which he continues to be attacked lacks decorum and professionalism. Firing President Powers would be a travesty. As a proud graduate of The University and as a citizen of the state of Texas, I ask you to do everything in your power to prevent President Powers from being fired and to allow him to constructively participate in a transition of leadership as he has graciously offered to do.

Sincerely,  
Brandon K. Holcomb  
BBA 1992  
MBA 2002  
[brandon.k.holcomb@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:brandon.k.holcomb@alumni.utexas.net)

**From:** [Bessellieu Family](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:02:38 PM

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Please don't force Bill Powers from his job. He is highly respected across our country for his commitment to making The University of Texas a world class institution. He is a man of strong moral character, proven results and a deep love of The University. This is evidenced by the billions of \$ that he has brought in under his tenure including the Dell medical school. As you know, his accolades are numerous and we are blessed to have him leading this University in our great state.

Rumors abound that he is being run out because of some of his cutting edge accomplishments that have brought national acclaim to the University. Surely the governor of this great state will not allow this well respected, successful man to be run out for others' selfish POLITICAL gain. This would reflect poorly on our state and it's top leadership.

At the end of the day we each have to live with the choices we make.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Bessellieu

Peggy  
Cell 214-912-1548



**From:** [Juliecrosswell](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:59:30 AM

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa , I was shocked by the news last week of your asking for Bill Powers resignation and am strongly opposed and hope you will come to a compromise with him about succession. This will hurt our university and cause long term damage. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Julie Biedenbarn Crosswell

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Shelly Tom](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Re: President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 11:58:50 PM

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa

Please view this email as a token of my support to President Powers.

It is truly upsetting that to date, there has been no reason as to why President Powers was given an ultimatum [to resign or be fired] over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus. I strongly feel that an abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.

President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including a record-setting capital campaign. Furthermore, he has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

I would hope that no personnel decisions be made at the university during active investigations and that no “adverse employment actions” be taken at this point in time.

Thank you,  
Shelly Tom

McCombs MBA 2014

**From:** [Jerry Whitten](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Support for President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:48:25 AM

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Chancellor Cigarroa,

I live far outside of the wind tunnel that passes for Texas politics these days, but even the distance of many miles cannot conceal the shameful activities that have been directed at UT Austin President Bill Powers, both recently and in prior years. I'm wondering if you fully realize just how much these proceedings damage the reputation of the University, and hold the entire State up to ridicule. The same can be said for the Board of Regents, including yourself.

During my time at the University I was taught to think for myself, to hold high standards and pursue fair minded behavior in both professional and personal matters. It is incumbent on you as the leader of the Board of Regents to employ similar standards in your evaluation of President Powers and his accusers. If there is credible evidence that he, or anyone else, has engaged in unethical or illegal behavior, then he, or they, should be held accountable. But if the situation consists mainly of unsubstantiated rumor, innuendo or political manipulation, then you are obligated to recognize this as insufficient grounds to justify President Powers resignation.

As is directed in stone on the walls of the University, you must seek the truth, so that it will set you, and everyone else, free. Nothing else will do.

Respectfully,

Jerry Whitten BS, MS, MPA, MBA  
Bellingham, Washington

**From:** [Mary Jane Taegel](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding UT  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:43:43 AM

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,

I am writing to encourage you to put an end to the disgraceful conflict between the UT Board of Regents and President Powers.

Speaking as an educator, I can assure you that businessmen and their insistences on business models do not have sufficient understanding of educational needs, practices, goals or policies. How can such tunnel vision make UT a better place? It cannot.

Please end this outrage!

Sincerely,  
Mary Jane Taegel (UT, '63)

**From:** [Kellie Lahey](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Resignation of Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:50:15 AM

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Please stop participating in the power play transpiring between Gov. Perry, his friends in high places, and the Board of Regents. It is not appropriate to ask President Powers to step down when he has been such a great leader for the University. Not only is it not appropriate, but now it is becoming a disgrace across the country. Education leaders across the country are questioning the actions of you and the board because of the personal vendetta that seems to be driving the accusations, the call for resignation, and the investigations. It is not a good reflection on reputation of the Board, the politicians, and ultimately will diminish the state's reputation for public education.

Sincerely,  
Kellie Lahey

**From:** [Perry Whitten](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:52:17 PM

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Dr. Cigarroa,

I am a proud alumni of UT Austin, as are my entire family. Together we hold ten degrees from six different colleges there, and have proudly supported our beloved University for over fifty years. So it is with great dismay that we have been following the recent events regarding President Powers, the Board of Regents, the Legislature, and you. I am thus writing to express my fervent hope that due process will be followed in this situation, and that as it states on our main building "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free". The reputation and integrity of the institution depends on it, and it is your duty to see that the facts are determined impartially and that there is no rush to judgment to satisfy political expediency. For this reason, and because of all the good President Powers has done for the University, I voice my strong support for him, and I call on you to act responsibly in the discharge of the duties of your office.

Respectfully,

Perry Whitten BS,MS,PE,CTA  
Fort Worth, Texas



Dance with them that brung ya'

**From:** <[beckner@math.utexas.edu](mailto:beckner@math.utexas.edu)>  
**Date:** July 5, 2014, 11:56:24 AM CDT  
**To:** <[fcigarroa@utsystem.edu](mailto:fcigarroa@utsystem.edu)>  
**Subject: Letter on William Powers -- UT-Austin**

July 5, 2014

Chancellor Cigarroa

Bill Powers is an extraordinary and visionary leader for the UT-Austin campus. I am attaching here a statement of support drafted last evening by the UT Faculty Council Executive Committee. In addition, this letter carries the unequivocal endorsement of the past two chairs of our Faculty Council (Alan Friedman, Martha Hilley), the current chair (Hillary Hart), and the next two chairs (William Beckner, Andrea Gore). The faculty signing this letter span seven different colleges on our campus. The breadth of support among faculty, students and staff for President Powers is unusual in its strength and range.

A cursory list of the main accomplishments during his tenure as President shows exceptional impact marking him clearly as an agent of change for higher education in this new century:

- 1) curriculum reform for the core undergraduate program
- 2) creation of the School of Undergraduate Studies
- 3) initiation of the Dell Medical School -- a new model for medical education
- 4) success in Capital Campaign -- almost \$3 billion raised
- 5) focus on Technology-Enhanced Education
- 6) improved Graduation Rates with emphasis on Enrollment Management & Retention
- 7) new Engineering and Computer Science buildings
- 8) support for health science education; plus statistical training & data science
- 9) support to insure that UT is leader in High-Performance Computing, and Computational Science & Engineering
- 10) efficient use of campus support services -- new business models for

shared services

From an outside appraisal, it would seem that Bill Powers has followed the innovative directions encompassed in your vision: "A Framework for Advancing Excellence". It would be so sad to lose such an able leader who has contributed so much to the excellence of the University of Texas and making it "a university of the first class".

--Bill

William Beckner  
Chair-elect, UT Faculty Council  
Professor of Mathematics  
Core Faculty, Institute for Computational Science and Engineering



**July 4, 2014**

**Statement in Support of President William Powers**

We understand from news articles that were posted this afternoon that UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa has delivered an ultimatum to University of Texas at Austin President William Powers to resign his position immediately or be fired. We further understand that the Chancellor has provided no rationale for this action. On behalf of the General Faculty of UT Austin, the Faculty Council Executive Committee unanimously reiterates its strong support for the presidency of William Powers who, under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, has fulfilled his position with distinction. He has greatly enhanced the quality and stature of the institution's undergraduate education, its graduate programs, its research mission, its commitment to medical education and care, and its service to the community and to higher education generally. This year his alma mater, the Texas Legislature, and the prestigious American Association of Universities, which he now serves as President, have honored him. As his colleagues, we are proud to acknowledge and honor his remarkable and distinguished achievements as we place our full support behind his continued presidency of The University of Texas at Austin.

Hillary Hart, chair, UT Austin Faculty Council

William Beckner, Mathematics

Brian Evans, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Elizabeth Gershoff, Human Development and Family Sciences

Andrea Gore, Pharmacy

Martha Hilley, School of Music

Jody Jensen, Kinesiology and Health Education

Susan Klein, Law School

Dean Neikirk, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Mariah Wade, Anthropology

Michael White, Classics

**From:** Tom Shockley <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent State of Affairs at UT-Austin  
**Date:** July 6, 2014 at 11:57:03 AM MDT  
**To:** Paul Foster <[REDACTED]>

I'm sure you get this but just in case. Tom

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Texas Exes" <[no-reply@alumni.utexas.edu](mailto:no-reply@alumni.utexas.edu)>  
**Date:** July 6, 2014 at 11:50:42 AM MDT  
**To:** "[REDACTED]"  
**Subject:** Urgent State of Affairs at UT-Austin  
**Reply-To:** [no-reply@alumni.utexas.edu](mailto:no-reply@alumni.utexas.edu)

[View this email in a web page](#)



Dear Texas Ex,

We apologize for interrupting your Fourth of July weekend, but we have urgent news of the university to share with you.

[Multiple news outlets](#) are reporting that UT-Austin President Bill Powers has been given an ultimatum to resign or be fired at this week's meeting of the Board of Regents. We can confirm for you that this news is accurate, and that President Powers has declined to resign, instead asking to work together on a timeline for change.

A forced resignation or firing would be a travesty for UT. It would cause further tension with legislators regarding UT System, would compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni, and invoke serious harm to the institution's reputation in the national spotlight. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, and has been a great leader; he deserves better than this. This is about our university; it is a treasure that alumni need to protect and we need to stand up and fight for its stature. The University of Texas at Austin deserves better than this.

This latest news came from an unfortunate leak to the media which has caused a premature impression of an ongoing and unresolved personnel decision, and has inflamed the controversy. If the individual who leaked the details of the conversation between the chancellor and the president of UT-Austin to the media is in a fiduciary role over the university, this person has breached that duty and has not acted honorably nor in the best interests of the university.

Despite this, the chancellor and the president should be able to work together on a mutual decision that provides leadership and a succession plan for the university. That is the way this kind of change is responsibly made.

For more information on this matter and resources for alumni to take action, please see this [overview](#) on our Texas Exes website, [www.texasexes.org](http://www.texasexes.org).

Thank you for your loyalty to our great alma mater.

**Kay Bailey Hutchison, President of the Board**  
**Charles Matthews, Chairman of the Board**



If you wish to be removed from this group's mailing list, [click here](#)

Texas Exes, 2110 San Jacinto, Austin, TX 78712

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Fire Powers and Hall  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 7:55:31 PM

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This is not about people. It is about what is best for the University. Fire them both as soon as possible.

UT grad 1973 and donor

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Alex Bard](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't be rash  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:22:20 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster, et al,

I write to you today regarding Chairman Cigarroa's recent ultimatum to President Powers of UT-Austin to resign or be fired. I am currently a third year undergraduate at UT (BS Chemistry-honors), and I fully support President Powers. UT prides itself on being one of the most prestigious research institutions in the country. This is largely due to the contributions of Bill Powers and his immediate predecessor, Larry Faulkner. My understanding (and correct me if I'm wrong) is that the Governor Perry has advised the Board of Regents to follow his vision of UT as a sort of degree factory, eliminating or significantly reducing research in favor of focusing on just getting undergraduates degrees. While I fully support the education of undergraduates, it is the research that goes on that truly makes UT great. I went to high school in Oregon, and what ultimately compelled me to attend UT was its excellence in research. If we lose that, as much as it pains me to say it, I may have to find a different school that allows me to do research. I cannot stress enough how important that is.

President Powers has also been integral in bringing the Dell Medical school to UT. This is very notable. This will not only provide a top tier education to aspiring medical professionals, but it will also provide excellent medical care to Central Texas. It was undoubtedly the most notable step that this university has taken in many years, and it would not have been accomplished without Bill Powers.

I further understand that President Powers has not been perfect. He has done some things I don't agree with, and I understand (again, correct me if I'm wrong) that the Chairman's recent ultimatum is in regards to admission preference given to the children of legislators. While I don't think that it's necessarily right that that is happening (if indeed it is happening), and if it is happening it should be stopped, I also believe that "solving" the problem by firing Bill Powers is very rash and hurtful to our university and the state of Texas. The children of legislators make up far less than 1% of the student population of the university, and if indeed they didn't deserve to get in, then they will be naturally selected against when they fail to succeed in their academics. So although it may not be morally "right," it is a minor enough problem that, compared to the great accomplishments that President Powers has made, it is none short of negligible when considering his record and thus his employment. I strongly urge you to reject the Chairman's ultimatum and allow President Powers to continue as president of UT.

Respectfully,  
Alex Bard

**From:** [Alex Huffman](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 7:51:34 PM

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Dear Board of Regents and Chairman Paul Foster,

The recent attention to the controversial challenge of President Powers has inspired me to reach out to you. My time at the University of Texas allowed me to explore subjects and opportunities that would not have been available if the Administration did not support such forward thinking. I excelled under professors who were researching new avenues of social science and practicing in the most esteemed fields. As a result of my experience, I continue to remain active in my school's events and my local Texas Exes Chapter. President Powers has continued to advance that thinking, and today's University of Texas study body is the better for it. Please ensure the next generation of Texas Exes can advance our school even more by attending under President Powers' management.

Sincerely,  
Alex Huffman  
MSSW '04

**From:** [Alexandra Gilliland](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 1:11:52 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster,

I am writing to you and the Board of Regents to express my support for President Powers.

I am a proud Longhorn. I treasure the value of my public school education that equals some of those received at the best private institutions in the country. I credit President Powers for much of the amazing experiences I had while at the University of Texas. And I am so grateful for how far that education has gotten me. After UT I went on to law school at Vanderbilt University, and I am now practicing in Seattle. A UT education truly does prepare its students for the world and equips them with the credentials to take them anywhere.

Please do not allow politics and pressure to corrupt one of the greatest assets Texas has. I hope someday my children will receive the same wonderful education from UT that I have, but I fear that will be impossible if we allow the government to dictate how the University is managed.

Thank you,

**Alexandra Gilliland**

**Foster Pepper PLLC** | P: 206.447.6223 [REDACTED]  
1111 Third Avenue, Suite 3400 | Seattle, WA 98101-3299



**FOSTER PEPPER** PLLC

**From:** [Allen Boger](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:09:44 AM

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Board of Regents:

As a UTEX I am disturbed about the actions of president Powers. I have a limited knowledge of what is happening and why but Power's attitude towards the Board of Regents is not appropriate. He should be dismissed.

Other issues should be investigated throughly and the Austin campus should be forth coming.

Allen Boger  
67 UT BSEE



**From:** [Allison Mantor](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:13:46 PM

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It would be a disgrace to the University of Texas to fire Bill Powers. He has done so many positive things for the University and this ongoing power battle between the governor's office and the regents is ridiculous. Do what is right for the University of Texas - do not fire Bill Powers. If he wants to retire after the 2015 legislative session then so be it - this would allow for orderly succession and time to set things right at the University so that a worthy replacement would even be willing to take the job.

**From:** [Andre Bui](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Travesty regarding President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 3:41:49 PM

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Dear Board of Regents,

I am writing to express my great displeasure and contempt with the way that President Bill Powers has been treated by Chancellor Cigarroa and the board. As an alumnus and current staff member of the University of Texas at Austin, and a supporter of President Powers, I believe that the chancellor's actions, in conjunction with the regents, are directly and irrevocably harming the reputation of the University of Texas. President Powers has consistently proven his ability to lead a Tier 1 research institution, as evidenced by his record-setting capital campaign, bringing a much-desired medical school to Austin, and being elected by his peers as the Chairman of the Association of American Universities. All of these actions have significantly raised the profile of the University of Texas, bringing with them prestige and great recognition.

In sharp contrast, the cowardly actions taken by the chancellor and the board have done nothing but mar the great reputation of UT. It is unbelievable that, after everything that President Powers has accomplished, the chancellor and the board would even consider trying to remove President Powers from his position. Because there has been no communication as to the motivation behind this farcical action, it is my belief that the chancellor and the regents are NOT acting with the best interests of the university in mind, but are merely serving as proxies to enflame a political battle between President Powers, a lame-duck chancellor, and a lame-duck governor. It is a joke that anyone on the board and the chancellor would claim to have any regard for the well-being of the university and the UT system with the way President Powers has been treated.

The actions taken by the board fly directly against the will of the faculty, students, alumni, and staff of the university. They also fly directly against the will of the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations. The House Committee's decree was to not take any adverse employment action as it investigated Regent Wallace Hall who, as I must remind you, is currently in line for impeachment. It casts a very dubious shadow over the integrity of the board of regents as President Powers is asked to resign coincidentally as Regent Hall is having articles of impeachment drafted against him.

This entire farce and travesty is a black mark on the university and on the personal reputations of all involved, and I hold the board of regents and the chancellor solely responsible. I have already contacted my local representative, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations, the chancellor, and the Lieutenant Governor about this matter. Any outcome that results in President Powers being ousted, either forcefully through the board meeting or of his own resignation, will be considered an embarrassment. I hope you are prepared to weather the sustained backlash your actions have garnered you.

Regards,

Andre Bui

**From:** [Andrew Townsend](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#); [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 7:20:18 AM

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Chancellor Cigarroa,

This message is meant for Chancellor Cigarroa and the UT System Board of Regents. I am contacting you all because I vehemently oppose any action that would forcibly remove President Bill Powers from the University of Texas at Austin. He has done more for the institution and Texas Higher Education than have most. Any allegations of Power's wrongdoing in the admission process have been unsubstantiated and unproven. This ultimatum to resign is nothing more than a political power play between the governor (and his appointees) and President Powers for control the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas System.

Universities should not be so subject to the whims of politicians - they stand for something more important than politics. Their core purpose is to educate future generations or as it says on a plaque on the main building at my university, "to transform lives for the benefit of society." Universities and their administrators do more for the world than politicians. When was the last time you met a politician with goals so pure? President Bill Powers has done a great deal for the University and higher education in the State of Texas and the country. Just look at his record.

This is not to say that President Powers has not made any mistakes. Of course he has (as have many other university administrators) but to err is human. His mistakes are nothing compared to the one you all would make if you forced his resignation. Leave the task of dealing with those mistakes to the university community. The president and his administration are accountable to us -- the alumni, the faculty, and the students. We are more than capable of handling any problems that may arise. As the Chancellor and Board of Regents, you are tasked with strengthening academia in the state of Texas, not to become embroiled in partisan conflict.

If Powers is removed, it sets a dangerous precedent for the future. Any university would be completely subject to the whims of misguided politicians and the prestige of our universities would suffer. The University of Texas is one of the best universities (and university systems) in the world. If Powers is ousted and UT Austin (as well as the UT System forced to follow Governor Perry's vision (who is not an expert when it comes to higher education), that reputation will be jeopardized. Universities stand for something more important than politics and should not be used as ammunition for political discourse. While it is true that higher education in this country needs to be reformed - forcibly restructuring university administrations is not the answer. Universities need more public funding and more public support to ensure admissions accountability and drive down the cost of higher education. That is your job, to ensure that educational opportunity is available to as many Texas students as possible. Ousting a university president will do nothing to address these problems or aid education in the state of Texas, nothing.

Therefore, I oppose the removal of President Bill Powers from the University of Texas because of the impact it would have on my university and universities everywhere. I assure you that I will do anything in my power (as will many other Texas Exes) to stop this travesty. If he is removed or forced to resign, I assure you that I will make my voice heard both in the voting booth and on the streets of

Austin. Other alumni will do the same.

Leave the University of Texas at Austin in the capable hands of the university administration, faculty, students, and alumni. Keep politicians out of higher education. Do your job and help make Texas universities better.

Do not test the UT Austin community or the alumni of this great university. We are a powerful voting block and political force. If you test us, you will lose.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Townsend

--

Andrew Townsend  
[REDACTED] | 214-770-3020  
Alumnus of the University of Texas at Austin  
Class of 2012

**From:** [Ann Froelich](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:33:14 PM

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Dear Members of UT Board of Regents and Chancellor:

If reported issues such as ultimatums about a forced resignation or firing of UT President Powers are correct, we would like to express great concern about this action and the timing of such a decision. After more than 50 years of involvement with The University of Texas, we find ourselves extremely concerned about how the leaders of our state are handling this matter. We expect class, dignity, and appropriate leadership from those chosen to represent us. We ask that all regents work together in a POSITIVE way to deal with this issue. We are very disappointed that actions currently being pursued are setting such poor examples for the next generation about how to make appropriate change. Therefore, we "Stand With Powers" at this time.

Wayne and Ann Froelich

**From:** [Anne Wheeler](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I stand for Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 7:06:28 PM

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Please stop this public attack on Bill Powers. It is hurting my beloved university.  
My son went to college in a California because Rick Perry is destroying UT.

Enough.  
Anne Wheeler  
'76

**From:** [Anthony Grigsby](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Keep President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 9:29:47 AM

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Dear Chairman Foster and Regents:

Please reject Chancellor Cigarroa's recommendation to abruptly remove President Powers from office at The University of Texas at Austin, should the Chancellor make that recommendation. The institution and colleges at The University have advanced under President Powers's leadership. He deserves the opportunity to complete the important initiatives currently underway.

The suggestion that there is undue political influence regarding admissions at The University is a sophistry. There has been no revelation of illegal or immoral conduct. The facts that have been made public merely reveal situations that occur every semester at every public institution of higher education with admissions standards. And the facts reveal that The University has managed those situations with as much professionalism and objectivity as any university or college in Texas (and with more professionalism and objectivity than most).

The University of Texas at Austin and its individual colleges perform well in scores of national rankings. You and the Regents should be proud of what The University has accomplished under the leadership of President Powers, Chancellor Cigarroa, and the Board of Regents.

Abruptly removing President Powers from office would damage the academic standing and reputation of The University and the whole UT System. It would devalue the degrees of every graduate of The University. Future Presidents and Regents would struggle for years to restore The University's standing and reputation.

Reward achievement, don't punish it. Please reject the Chancellor's recommendation, should he make it.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Grigsby  
MPAff. 1979  
J.D. 1985

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Tony Grigsby  
HEH  
[Tony.Grigsby@utexas.edu](mailto:Tony.Grigsby@utexas.edu)

**From:** [Arena](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:08:01 PM

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To the Members of the Board of Regents,  
The University of Texas at Austin:

Over the past several months I've followed, with great dismay, the news reports and updates from the University of Texas Ex-Students' Association regarding the governor's misguided attempts to influence change at The University, the witch hunt conducted by Regent Hall, and most recently, the effort to oust President Bill Powers. I can honestly say that up to now, I have been proud to call myself a graduate of this great institution, and as of December, the proud parent of a graduate of the Plan II program. Today, however, that sense of pride has been superseded by a sense of shame, embarrassment and utter disgust at the travesty that is occurring before the eyes of the academic world.

Bill Powers has been an incredible leader, a proponent of excellence and a powerful force for advancement of The University and its programs. He has the respect of the Texas Legislature, the faculty, the students and the alumni. And yet, there are those who seek his "resignation" in an underhanded, wrong-minded manner that will most certainly discredit The University and cause long-term damage to its reputation.

Why now, over the holiday weekend, and against the express instructions of the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations, did this latest news come to light? It is hardly in the best interest of The University. And for those of us who remember the mistakes of the past (remember the John Silber days and consider what he accomplished after leaving UT), it seems that once again, those tasked with responsible leadership again seem to be headed down the wrong course.

I implore each regent to carefully consider what is required of you -- to make decisions on and act in the best interest of a The University of Texas, not the governor of the State of Texas or anyone else seeking to determine its course. Firing Bill Powers is not in the best interest of The University if you truly believe "what starts here changes the world." Both he, and University of Texas, deserve better than this.

Most sincerely,  
Robin Worthington Arena, BJ '79



**From:** [Audrey Hooks](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Don't remove Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:54:14 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster and UT Board of Regents,

I am writing in response to recent reports in the media that Chancellor Cigarroa has given President Powers an ultimatum to resign or be fired this week. If these reports are accurate, I urge the Board of Regents to reconsider. The progress and accolades at the University of Texas over the last decade can be largely attributed to the leadership of Bill Powers. Please do not set our flagship university back by forcing him to leave.

Sincerely,

Audrey Simmons Hooks  
UT B.S. 2002, Texas Ex Life Member

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Bailey Gurwitz](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:15:30 PM

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Dear Sir,

My family has been ardent supporters of The University for many years. We have admired and appreciated the work of President Powers throughout his tenure.

I do not believe that politics has a place in education, and I feel that it is a definite detriment to the University and its reputation nationally.

I urge you and your board to reconsider the recent ultimatum offered to President Powers and urge you to rescind that thought in favor of the good of all involved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bailey Gurwitz, Class of '57

**From:** [Bbtwlaw.com](http://bbtwlaw.com)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 6:13:49 PM

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I write in support of President Bill Powers and encourage you to refrain from any action to dismiss him from his position as President of UT Austin. It is abundantly clear that unless the reportedly planned actions of the BOR are abandoned, the value of a UT degree will be greatly reduced and an internationally recognized tradition of academic excellence will be forfeited. Functioning properly, the BOR should be a bulwark against political interference in Texas higher education, but it appears that instead the BOR is preparing to sacrifice the good of The University in the pursuit of a narrow-minded partisan agenda.

Both of my parents and my only sibling are graduates of The University and I was raised to support and love it. For that reason it is with great regret that I must tell you that I will be unable to continue my support should you choose this ill-advised and unwarranted course of action. The damage you will cause by doing so will alienate faculty, alumni and current students and, under the best of circumstances, will require generations to repair. Please do not do this.

Wm. Mark Thompson  
Lubbock, Texas  
BA 1974, JD 1976.

**From:** [Bea Ann Smith](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Do not disgrace the University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 8:05:06 PM

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To the Members of the Board of Regents:

Please do not interfere in the administration of the University of Texas at Austin! Your threats to the tenure of President Bill Powers have already impugned the reputation of this great university and made the nation wonder why the governing body would try to demean a president who has offered only distinguished service to this university. Nationally and state-wide Bill Powers enjoys a stellar reputation and has done much to add to the reputation of this university. Please put petty politics aside and support instead of attacking the presidency of Bill Powers.

Bea Ann Smith, BA, Plan II 1965  
JD, UT School of Law, 1976

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Bea Ann Smith  
[REDACTED]  
cell 512.422.7474

**From:** [Becky Shaw Sisk](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:41:01 PM

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Greetings members of the Board of Regents,

I am a lifelong member of the Texas Exes who fully supports UTA's President Bill Powers. He has done a great job over the years since I graduated with a PhD in Nursing in 1989. Please keep politics out of academia and our precious University of Texas at Austin.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Shaw Sisk  
PhD Class of 1989  
7214 West Legion Hall Road  
Dunlap, IL 61525

**From:** [Ben De Leon](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:01:23 PM

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Chairman Foster:

I'm writing in advance of the July 10 Regents' Meeting, to voice my continued support of President Powers, and my sincere hope that you'll work toward allowing cooler heads to prevail in the form of compromise - which is in everyone's best interests. As set forth below, the forced resignation or firing of President Powers would be most unfortunate for myriad reasons.

- The forced resignation or firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT. It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, transforming the undergraduate experience, bringing further prestige to UT through his chairmanship of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the establishment of the Dell Medical School.
- The Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers. Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.
- Why has this decision been made and why *now*? To date, there has been no reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum and notably, done so over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus.
- Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university. Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of a successful and highly regarded president is not in the best interest of UT.
- President Powers is willing to work with the System. The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

As the recipient of two undergraduate degrees from UT-Austin and a J.D. from the UT School of Law, please use your leadership to bring parties together via constructive discourse. We cannot afford to lose President Powers in the midst of such unrest; he deserves better. The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You during this most perilous time, Chairman.

Sincerely,  
Ben De Leon

Benjamin S. "Ben" De Leon  
De Leon & Washburn, P.C.

901 S. MoPac Expressway  
Barton Oaks Plaza V, Suite 230  
Austin, TX 78746  
Office: [\(512\) 478-5308](tel:5124785308)  
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**From:** [Bessellieu Family](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:02:10 PM

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Please don't force Bill Powers from his job. He is highly respected across our country for his commitment to making The University of Texas a world class institution. He is a man of strong moral character, proven results and a deep love of The University. This is evidenced by the billions of \$ that he has brought in under his tenure including the Dell medical school. As you know, his accolades are numerous and we are blessed to have him leading this University in our great state.

Rumors abound that he is being run out because of some of his cutting edge accomplishments that have brought national acclaim to the University. Surely the governor of this great state will not allow this well respected, successful man to be run out for others' selfish POLITICAL gain. This would reflect poorly on our state and it's top leadership.

At the end of the day we each have to live with the choices we make.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Bessellieu

Peggy  
Cell 214-912-1548



**From:** [Bette Wooten](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:50:21 PM

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Please move beyond politics at UT and keep President Powers, a man with more integrity than any of you will ever have.  
Bette Bullard Wooten  
Texas Ex life mber

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Betty Bird](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:27:47 AM

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Dear Board, as a University of Texas at Austin alumni, I certainly urge you as the Board of Regents not to remove President Bill Powers as President of UT-Austin. He is respected by the students, faculty, and alumni bringing respect to the school. He has certainly advanced the university in so many ways - conducting a huge capital campaign, cutting money from the budget, helping get in Dell Medical School going ( as a resident of Austin, convincing the public to support it), and serving as President of the AAU.

Betty Bird  
Class of 1963

**From:** [Betty McCreight](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 6:01:08 AM

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Chairman Paul Foster:

I feel strongly that if a faculty supports its leader, the institution should pay attention. The faculty is the heart and soul of the University, and they endorse president Powers. His many accomplishments have, indeed, advanced the University of Texas. I especially admire his attention to the undergraduate program - the foundation of learning. President Powers has been willing to work through the transition of power; please allow that to happen.

Betty McCreight  
MA 1975

**From:** [Bianca Hernandez](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:04:15 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster,

I write to you today, like many other University of Texas alumni, to voice my support for President William Powers. As a second-generation graduate of the University, it holds a special place in my heart and is greatly responsible for providing me with the many opportunities I have had throughout my life.

Since graduating in 1998, I have proudly watched as my beloved alma mater has climbed the ranks of the world's best learning institutions. I feel that much of the credit for the stature of UT goes to President Powers and can be attributed to the work he has done during his tenure. The number of top 10 programs (59) and top 25 programs (111) at the University is astounding, and the fact that students can get that quality of education at the cost of a state school is incredible. I could go on and on listing President Powers's multiple accomplishments such as the record-setting capital campaign and the establishment of the Dell Medical School, but those are all things you know and are surely hearing from other proud alumni who also support him.

However, all of this progress is in jeopardy if the Board of Regents moves ahead with its plan to force the resignation of President Powers. To see UT in the spotlight for such a negative reason is truly heartbreaking, and the forced resignation or firing of President Powers would be a travesty for the University. Years of time, effort, and of course money have gone into creating a "university of the first class" as is mandated by the state, and this course of action could do irreparable harm to the state's flagship university.

Furthermore, I have to note that the timing of this unfortunate situation is somewhat curious. It is my understanding that the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the UT System to take any "adverse employment action" during the investigation of Regent Hall. Additionally, the perceived urgency and timing of this happening over the holiday weekend is highly suspect in my opinion. Why has this decision been made and why now?

There is absolutely nothing to be gained by an abrupt and controversial exit to one of the most-respected and successful presidents in the history of the University of Texas at Austin. If you all insist on making this change, which itself is a mistake, I urge you to allow President Powers to complete a succession plan and a seamless transition. Why deliberately cause problems and turmoil just weeks before the beginning of the academic year?

If my dear father were living, he would be mortified at the negative attention that his beloved UT is getting from coast to coast. I hope that you will take the advice of the

countless UT alumni who support President Powers and allow him to remain at his post. I thank you for your service to the UT system and for your attention today.

Hook 'em Horns,

Karla Bianca Hernandez, BJ 1998

Raul H. Hernandez, BBA 1971

**From:** [Bill Agee](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I support Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:17:38 AM

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Chairman Foster,

I'm writing in support of Bill Powers and I'm convinced that he should be allowed to continue as UT president. I write as graduate from the Jackson School of Geosciences and as an individual who has worked with Bill Powers to maintain access to a vital software grant (\$150 Million/year) that benefits the Jackson School of Geosciences and the Cockerel School of Engineering. I ask that you allow Bill Powers to continue in his current capacity and that he receive your full support.

Regards.....Bill Agee  
Jackson School of Geosciences  
BS 1984 and MS 1989

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**From:** [Bill Grigsby](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:22:47 PM

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Quit screwing with President Powers.

We support him and our University.

william and louise allen grigsby

Life Members of Texas Exas

class of 1963

**From:** [Bill Lewis](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Need a reason to fire Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 3:20:16 PM

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The one thing missing in all the discussions about firing Bill Powers is a good reason to fire him now. He's not collegial enough. Well, boo bleeping hoo. Who among us has not had problems with their bosses or employees? That doesn't make us bad bosses or employees; it just makes us human. I have made my share of bad hires, but I never fired anyone unless I could clearly articulate why I was firing them. You shouldn't, either.

Maybe the chancellor has a good reason to fire Powers now. Maybe you have a good reason to fire him now. If so, then let's hear it. Otherwise, accept Powers' offer to resign next year, declare victory, and go home.

Thanks,

Bill Lewis  
BBA 1967

1910 Shadowbrook Circle  
Round Rock, Texas 78681-7139  
940-367-1363



**From:** [Bill Ratliff](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** UT President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:30:52 AM

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Chairman and Members of the University of Texas Board of Regents:

Until now, I had resisted the urge to write to you about my perception of the mistreatment of President Bill Powers. But I can no longer stay silent.

For fifteen years I served as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Education Committee, Chairman of the Texas Senate Finance Committee, and Lieutenant Governor. In those capacities, I had a multitude of opportunities to work with Bill Powers in our joint efforts to make UT Austin the finest flagship university in the nation. Never, in all those years, did I have the least doubt of Mr. Powers' dedication to his institution or his amazing ability to work with the myriad of interests demanded by his office.

I cannot begin to understand the motivation behind the ongoing efforts to force Bill Power's resignation as President of UT Austin. I am particularly puzzled at the fact that the Chancellor, who is currently at best a lame duck in that position, would force this action as he exits his office. Something about that timing simply does not ring true.

It will be a sad day in the history of Texas' higher education if these misguided efforts succeed. I can only hope that more thoughtful minds will prevail and Bill Powers can continue to serve my Alma Mater for a long time to come.

Bill Ratliff  
Former Lt. Governor of Texas

**From:** [Bill Zimmerman](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** ["mailto:chancellor@utsystem.edu"; "mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us"; "mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us"; "mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us"; "mailto:naomi.gonzalez@house.state.tx.us"; "mailto:eric.johnson@house.state.tx.us"; "mailto:Lyle.Larson@house.state.tx.us"; "mailto:Trey.Martinez.Fischer@house.state.tx.us"; "mailto:charles.perry@house.state.tx.us"; "mailto:four.price@house.state.tx.us"](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:10:05 AM

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Board of Regents;

This road show is an embarrassment to The University and Texas. As a Life Member of Texas Exes, believe that I have been a part of a large group of people that have put us as the flagship university for not only the state but also nationally and internationally.

- **The firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT.** It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, his presidency of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the Dell Medical School.
- **The Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers.** Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.
- **Why has this decision been made and why *now*?** To date, there has been no reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus.
- **Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university.** Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.

**President Powers is willing to work with the System.** The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

It takes years and generations to develop a reputation and a second to destroy it.

In this case enough is more than enough!!!

Bill Zimmerman

**BILL ZIMMERMAN** CPA/ABV/CFF, CVA

William T Zimmerman Jr PLLC  
Lakes on Tennyson  
5048 Tennyson Parkway  
Suite 200

Plano, Texas 75024

Direct: 972.473.3794

Fax: 972.473.3796

Cell: 214.725.9095

**From:** [billeemorytx](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** UT President William Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:01:16 PM

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As a proud holder of an MPA from the LBJ School and a former college teacher, I was appalled to hear about the "resign or be fired" ultimatum issued to President Powers. Disagreements about policy aside, no "University of the First Rank" treats a president with the distinguished record of President Powers in such a ham-fisted manner. To do so tarnishes the University's reputation and will make exceptional minds question whether to include UT in their options.

Most all of you have business backgrounds and you well know that you can not recruit and retain the best talent if you preside over a business with a reputation as a hostile workplace. If you are truly committed to The University of Texas as an institution of the first rank you must understand that exceptional talent always has options. In short, bad money drives out good. Just as your very best engineers, accountants and lawyers will avoid questionable companies, so will academic talent. High-handed actions such as just occurred is a prescription for mediocrity.

In the best interests of the University, treat President Powers with the dignity and respect that his office and his record deserves

Sincerely,  
William A. Emory

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Bob Hopkins](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Bill Powers  
**Date:** Friday, July 04, 2014 6:42:51 PM

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Bill Powers has done a great deal to help The University of Texas. Please keep him in office and do not bow to the wishes of the Perry administration. Bill has earned the right to leave when he decides to leave.

Sent from my iPhone 5S

Bob Hopkins  
713-859-0455 (c)

[REDACTED]

(And excuse the auto-correct typos!!!)

**From:** [Bobby Bragg](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I Support Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:43:17 PM

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Stop the witch hunt.

Bobby Bragg  
713-822-4621

██████████

Board of Regents; Chancellor

## Bill Powers

Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:12:51 AM

Bill Powers was a great dean of the Law School and has done a magnificent job as President of the University. I personally can't believe the way he has been treated, and I object to his removal from the presidency of the University.

Over the last several years, I have personally donated thousands of dollars to the Law School, and have been instrumental in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Law School from my firm. I can assure you that my personal donations and efforts to raise donations from others will stop unless you get this right. You are making a huge mistake.

[andrewskurth.com](http://andrewskurth.com)

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**From:** [Brad Schuelke](#)  
**To:** [Cigarroa, Francisco](#); [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I support President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:30:31 PM

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Chancellor Cigarroa and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing to express my full support for President Bill Powers and to express my extreme concern with the overall direction the Leadership of the University of Texas System appears to be taking the University of Texas. I sincerely fear that those steps, which seem to be at the direction of Governor Perry, will have an extremely detrimental effect on the University that I love.

Before saying anything more about the current situation, let me say that I am a two-time graduate of the University of Texas. I graduated in 1995 with a degree in Honors Business before going on to earn a JD from the University of Texas School of Law in 1998. I am also a Conservative Texan with three sons who all love the University of Texas and who are all extremely hopeful to one day attend themselves. As a modestly paid employee of the State of Texas, I am of course concerned about whether I will be able to afford to pay for all of my kids to attend any institution of higher education, including the University of Texas. Nevertheless, the desire to make higher education more affordable does not justify destroying the reputation and quality of the education currently offered by the University.

From its very inception, the Legislature has mandated that the mission of the University of Texas is to be a "University of the First Class." Under the leadership of Bill Powers, the University has not only accomplished that mission, but has actually enhanced its reputation in academia, in research, and in student development. I was lucky enough to have Bill Powers as a professor while attending UT Law School. I know first hand what an honorable and dedicated servant he has been to the University and how he has truly contributed to making UT a University of the First Class.

I am well aware of the rumors circulating regarding President Powers' role in the "corruption" in the admissions process. And of course I am not privy to any of the details or nearly as much information as each of you. However, even assuming the worst, nothing that has been reported justifies the action that is being contemplated. Whatever President Powers' faults or transgressions, to unceremoniously fire him, without providing him an appropriate transition period, would do irreparable and unnecessary harm to the reputation of the University. President Powers clearly has broad support from the faculty of the University, the alumni of the University, and the current students of the University. To make a sudden change at this time would likely lead to extreme turmoil and result in an extremely divided University family.

I have full faith and confidence in President Powers and his ability to continue to lead the University of Texas to even greater heights as a public institution of higher learning. I am hopeful that you will allow him to continue in his capacity for the indefinite future. But to the extent that you believe change is necessary, I strongly



urge you to provide President Powers at least through May so that the change may be carefully planned and effectuated without harm to the University.

But my concern runs much deeper than simply the fate of President Powers. My concern (and strong belief) is that the current situation is not really about President Powers' supposed inappropriate conduct with respect to the admissions process, but about Governor Perry's desire to implement Jeff Sandefer's "Seven Breakthrough Solutions" at the University of Texas. Over the last couple of years, I have done a fair amount of research into Mr. Sandefer and his ideas for education. As a conservative Texan and business major I greatly admire Mr. Sandefer's accomplishments in the business world. It is obvious that he is an extremely smart man with a tremendous entrepreneurial gift. And although I did not take any of his classes while at the business school, I trust that he is a great teacher and mentor for future entrepreneurs. Moreover, as the head of a homeschooling family, I greatly applaud many of the teaching techniques that he has incorporated into the Acton Academy. Many of those same methods of learning (at least to the extent they are described by the Acton Academy's website and other material I have read about the Academy) are the methods we use to teach our own children. So I appreciate Mr. Sandefer's attempt to streamline higher education and make it more affordable for the masses.

But I recognize that higher education is more complicated than a simple balance sheet and that the methods of teaching entrepreneurship do not necessarily translate to other disciplines, at least not at a University of the First Class. My pride in the University of Texas runs much deeper than just the pride I have in the classes I took and the education I received. I take pride every time there is a new scientific discovery by a member of the University, every time that research performed by a professor of the University leads to a new medical breakthrough or solves a problem that impacts the whole world. The University is a University of the First Class not just because it has great classroom teachers, but because it attracts the greatest minds in the world to its faculty. Those great minds inspire students to become the future's greatest minds. And that inspiration comes not just from the classroom, but from the research and accomplishments of great professors outside of the classroom. If Mr. Sandefer's seven solutions are implemented at the University of Texas, I fear that the inevitable result will be a University whose sole focus is on making sure that students "like" their professors. We will lose all of those great minds and scholars who are the foundation of the University of Texas and who allow us to truly proclaim that, "what starts here, changes the world."

I admit and recognize that there is probably a place for colleges that can deliver a solid undergraduate degree at a low price. And I certainly recognize the political attractiveness of promoting reforms that result in a \$10,000 undergraduate degree. But there is also a place in this world and in this great State of Texas for Universities of the First Class. Places where the best and brightest minds in the world come together to truly improve the world. Now is not the time and the University of Texas is not the place to experiment with the implementation of Mr. Sandefer's unproven ideas. If his ideas truly translate across all disciplines and will work for all levels of higher education, implement them at second and third tier schools and let them prove their worth. Then maybe they can be incorporated, as appropriate, into the University

of Texas.

I know that you all have a heavy responsibility as leaders of the University of Texas System. I'm sure you recognize better than I that your actions and the impact that they have on our University will be judged for years to come. There is no doubt that the Eyes of Texas truly are upon you, and I pray that you will act in a manner that will bring honor to our great University.

Hook'Em Horns,

C. Brad Schuelke

BBA 95

JD 98

**From:** [Brandon Holcomb](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:37:20 PM

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Chairman Foster and members of the Board of Regents:

I have been deeply disturbed by the ongoing reports about the attempts to relieve President Powers of his duties as President of The University of Texas. I am especially disturbed by the recent reports about the Chancellor's ultimatum. Bill Powers has served The University and our state with distinction. The manner in which he continues to be attacked lacks decorum and professionalism. Firing President Powers would be a travesty. As a proud graduate of The University and as a citizen of the state of Texas, I ask you to do everything in your power to prevent President Powers from being fired and to allow him to constructively participate in a transition of leadership as he has graciously offered to do.

Sincerely,  
Brandon K. Holcomb  
BBA 1992  
MBA 2002  
[brandon.k.holcomb@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:brandon.k.holcomb@alumni.utexas.net)

**From:** [Brett Ratliff](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Employment of William C. Powers, Jr., as President of The University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:35:46 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster,

As a UT alumni, I am writing to express my concern over the news of Bill Powers' potential firing from The University of Texas.

I firmly believe a forced resignation or firing would be immensely detrimental to UT. There is no doubt that this termination without any valid explanation will only lead to more turmoil for the faculty, students, and alumni, and cause severe damage to the university's reputation. It will also set a very dangerous precedent and will ruin the potential to recruit world-class teachers, researchers, students, and ultimately a successor. It is for these reasons that I strongly object Bill Powers' dismissal from The University of Texas. I hope that you will act in the best interest of the university and vote against Bill Powers' removal.

Thanks,

Brett Ratliff

PRITCHARD ASSOCIATES  
2121 North Akard Street, Suite 100  
Dallas, TX 75201-2223  
214/849-0011 (main)  
214/849-0018 (direct)  
214/693-9407 (cell)

**From:** [Bruce Lindsey](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:52:37 AM

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To the Board:

I strongly support the continuation of the work of Bill Powers at the University. My belief is that he has followed the guidelines in our State Constitution, i.e. that the Legislature "provide for the ... direction of a University of the first class ..."

To remove him now will damage the University and our state.

Thank you,

Bruce Lindsey  
Box 27  
Round Mountain TX 78663

**From:** [Bryan Moynihan](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:18:29 PM

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Do Not fire Bill. I am an embarrassed Texas Ex. Please stop this foolishness.

Bryan Moynihan

**From:** [Bud Applebaum](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:38:10 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster:

We appreciate everything you do for the University of Texas, and for the state of Texas.

President Powers has made and continues to do make an extremely positive impact on the University of Texas and our great state.

Please empower President Powers to lead the University of Texas to even greater heights. We support President Powers and respectfully request you allow him to maintain his position.

Thank you very much.

Jay I. Applebaum  
BBA, University of Texas at Austin – 1984  
Dallas, Texas  


**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:55:27 PM

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My name is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] is currently  
a sophomore at UT.

We are regular donors to the University of Texas at Austin and consistently  
vote in every election.

We strongly support President Powers and his efforts to strengthen the  
University. The negative impact that his termination will have on the  
University and on this State cannot be understated. I am not privy to whatever  
information that the chancellor may feel that he has but his actions are directly  
contrary to the wishes of the University's alumni as a whole. I urge you to do  
what you can to support President Powers and to ensure that he remain in his  
current position. Whatever agenda Mr. Hall and Governor Perry have in  
attempting to dumb down the University cannot be allowed to succeed. Please  
listen to us as voters and do not allow the efforts against President Powers to  
succeed. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





**From:** [Callie Parker Bradford](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I Support President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:12:28 PM

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To the Board of Regents:

I am a proud UT graduate from the School of Liberal Arts (1999) and the School of Law (2004), a past member of the 1883 Society and an ardent supporter of the School of Law, the Forty Acres Scholarship Program and the Athletic Program. As such, I believe it is my obligation to express my extreme concern over the direction of our university should President Powers be fired. The events that transpired over the weekend were disappointing, unwarranted and, frankly, embarrassing for a university of our caliber. I am outraged that political objectives are taking precedence over genuine leadership and concern for our university's future and the state of higher education in Texas.

President Powers has worked tirelessly to advance the goal of making our university the top public university in the country. He has presided over a record setting capital campaign, reduced the budget by millions of dollars and helped bring a medical school to our campus. His leadership and dedication are widely admired among his peers, as evidenced by his appointment as president of the AAU. The support of donors, faculty and peer institutions that President Powers has attracted for the university will be irrevocably damaged by his unjust firing. In particular, it is senseless to fire him during the home stretch of the capital campaign which has been and will be instrumental for the university. I do not understand how the university can hope to attract and retain top talent and raise badly needed funds for the university in the face of constant political unrest and interference.

It is telling that not one reason has been given for the actions taken by Chancellor Cigarroa and that these events transpired over the holiday weekend when the majority of students and faculty are not on campus. Why now? Given the upcoming change in the governor's office, it is hard to believe that these actions are anything other than a last ditch effort to advance political objectives that bear no relation to concern for the university's future and in particular, its students.

I urge you to reconsider the firing of President Powers and focus on what is right for the university and the future of our state. President Powers has conducted himself with dignity, professionalism and a commitment to the future of the University of Texas. I urge the Board of Regents to do the same.

Regards,

Callie Parker Bradford

5450 Surrey Circle  
Dallas, Texas 75209  
[\(713\) 614-3031](tel:(713)614-3031)

**From:** [Camden Chancellor](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 8:24:33 AM

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The lack of transparency regarding the most recent and drastic push to terminate Bill Powers is slightly disturbing for me and many of my fellow alumni.

I might suggest that UT take steps to clarify as to the actions and reasons for which this termination is occurring.

Best,  
Camden B. Chancellor, 4th generation alumnus

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**From:** [Carol Holmgreen](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers controversy  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:26:23 PM

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As a UT Austin graduate and a 31-year employee of The University of Texas at Austin, I have been disheartened by the controversy surrounding President Powers. President Powers has been an excellent leader for the University, supporting the best interests of students, whom I have always thought and told my staff were our reason for being there. He encourages academic rigor and high standards, rather than a diploma mill operation. He is fair to faculty and staff and respected by them.

The current actions of the Board of Regents are clearly political and are embarrassing to the System and to the State of Texas.

I hope you will allow President Powers to continue doing the job he does so admirably and to let the University continue to retain its place as a first class institution of higher education.

Sincerely,  
Carol Colby Holmgreen  
Class of 1966  
Associate Registrar, Retired

**From:** [Carol Reagan](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** A University of the First Class  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:50:20 PM

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To the Board of Regents of The University of Texas:

As proud University of Texas alumnae, we want to register our support for President Bill Powers. His accomplishments have elevated the status of our University; he has headed up a record-setting capital campaign, cut almost a half billion dollars from the University's budget, served as president of the Association of American Universities and the Dell Medical School, and acted at all times in the best interest of the University.

There have been numerous attacks on our institution in the last ten years and there are those who would diminish the academic prestige we have worked so hard to attain. It is no secret that some in Austin do not wish The University well. It seems unusual, to say the least, that the Chancellor has decided to act contrary to the specific request of the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations. That body has requested that the University not take any "adverse employment action" while their investigation is ongoing. Questions should be asked, not only why this decision was made, but, why was it made at this time. It would appear that, just possibly, an ultimatum was issued to the Chancellor. Perhaps, the question also should be asked about whom that would be? It should be obvious to everyone that there is more to this situation than meets the eye.

Frankly, it is appalling that the very body that should be protecting The University is doing its best to demean it. As alumnae of The University, we feel that we have the right to know what it behind this lynching. The only things released to the public have been innuendos and red herrings. So far, nothing has been released that should result in the type of ultimatum issued by the Chancellor. Those who profess to lead a major university should be able to work together for positive, long-term changes that will lead us into the next hundred years.

The Constitution of 1876 provided for the founding of a "university of the first class" and for its name, "The University of Texas." Nearly 150 years later that should be the most important goal both of the Board of Regents and the alumnae and students. Recent activities of the Board of Regents and the Chancellor do not support that goal.

Sincerely,

John H. Reagan, Life Member 24426

Carol B. Reagan, Life Member 24704

**From:** [Carol S Rowley](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers "Firing"  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:19:25 PM

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To the Board of Regents of the University of Texas  
To Chairman of the Board of Regents Paul Foster  
Via Email to [bor@utsystem.edu](mailto:bor@utsystem.edu)

Dear Board of Regents:

I believe that the firing of University of Texas at Austin President Bill Powers would be a travesty for both the university and the State of Texas. It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System, compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni, and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best.

President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including presiding over the establishment the Dell Medical School, presiding over the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, and representing the university through his presidency of the AAU (the Association of American Universities).

Additionally, the rumored future action of Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa to fire Powers appears to fly in the face of the specific instruction of the Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations to not take any "adverse employment action" during the investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.

I am writing this email to state that I support two things: (1) retention of President Bill Powers as President of the University of Texas at Austin; and (2) thorough bi-partisan, objective examination of the problems of admission that keep cropping up and transparency of the process of this examination. I personally do not want to have "leaking anonymous whistleblowers" who mouth off to bloggers' websites determining the future of an honorable man, the University of Texas at Austin and how this State of Texas is viewed throughout the nation by the academics and institutions of the rest of the United States of American and foreign institutions as well.

Additionally, I thoroughly support the House Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations in its insistence that no personnel decisions be made at the university during active investigations and I strongly urge the Board of Regents to stand by this insistence as well and convey this position to Chancellor Cigarroa.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Stubblefield Rowley  
3012 Pennsylvania CT  
Denton, TX 76205  
BA, University of Texas at Austin, 1965

**From:** [Carvalho, Jill](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [McBee, Barry](#); [Frederick, Francie](#); [Morales, David](#); [Rabon, Karen](#); [Orr, Kristy](#); [Felkel, Carol](#); [Moore, Elaine](#); [Walston, Linda](#); [Montemayor, Tina](#); [Hartmann, Laura](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:29:43 AM

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Dear Regents:

I am writing to express my support for President Bill Powers. As is clear by the outpouring of support for him, many constituencies support him--which is rare for a university president. President Powers has improved UT and his ability to continue to do so is harmed. In addition, Texas's reputation is harmed when we appear to be anti-intellectual, vindictive, and petty. I support my (adopted) state and my law school and ask that you do not support Chancellor Cigarroa's attempts to fire President Powers.

Regards,  
Jill R. Carvalho, Ph.D., J.D.  
University of Texas School of Law Class of 2013

**Jill R. Carvalho**  
Associate

**Andrews Kurth LLP**  
111 Congress Avenue, Suite 1700  
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[vCard](#) | [Bio](#) | [andrewskurth.com](#)

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**From:** [Cathy Plyler](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In support of President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:31:29 PM

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Dear Chairman Paul Foster and members of the Board of Regents

I am a graduate of the University of Texas and reside in Austin. My father (deceased) graduated in 1956 from the school of Pharmacy. My daughter graduated from UT and the UT Law School in 2006. So you can see that our loyalty to the University crosses generations. The current state of events regarding President Powers is negatively impacting the current and future state of this great institution.

I am in support of President Powers and strongly implore the board to allow him to continue in his present position without a forced resignation. I have also signed the petition in his favor.

Regards  
Catherine Plyler  
class of 1981



**From:** [Charles Green](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Keep President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:37:46 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster,

The idea of firing one of the great presidents of The University of Texas is indeed a travesty. I support the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations request that the Board of Regents not take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall. I ask the BOR to be a team player and honor that request. I personally feel that Wallace Hall should be the person being fired if not impeached for his misguided and destructive actions against The University of Texas. President Powers is a great president, accomplishing many things for the benefit of the University. He has my full support and I hope he stays President until he retires on his own terms.

**From:** [Charles Matthews](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Message for Chairman Foster  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:59:03 AM

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Mr. Chairman: during my year as President of the Texas Exes, I have had the opportunity to visit with thousands of alumni, the faculty, and the leadership of the students. They all overwhelmingly recognize the contributions of Bill Powers and continue to give him their full support. By now, you are probably well aware of this. The unrest is very real and if anyone is advising that this will soon blow over if Powers is terminated is badly and sadly mistaken based upon the depth of the feelings toward the Chancellor and the Board as has been expressed to me. I would be remiss if I failed to pass on this information to you, for whatever use you choose to do with it. As past Chair of the Development Board, I have also heard from major donors during the past few days, and I assure you that they too support Powers and are watching carefully to see what is happening to their investment in UT. We need to continue to rely on financial support in a big way, and this turmoil may well have an adverse impact. Those of us concerned with the well being of the University will work to minimize the potential negative impact with donors, but it is a very serious issue that could affect the University for years to come. I have also heard from some legislators, and the session could produce some legislation affecting the structure and governance of the System. Questions are now being asked about the role of the System and the duplication of efforts with regard to academic affairs. This could be a very slippery slope, and an irritant for the System and the Board at the very least. This will continue the turmoil and negative national publicity for the University. Some from other schools may cheer, or yell, but it is not good for the State in the long run to have a long running feud involving the legislature, alumni, faculty and students. It does not need to be this way. The Chancellor has said that the problem was a "breakdown in communication" with him in "recent months", and that he has not been pressured by the Board or the Governor in his threat to terminate Powers. If so, there is one convenient option that may have not been considered that could quickly solve the current situation. It is unique in that the Chancellor has already given notice that he is leaving his position, and likely sooner rather than later. If communication and friction between the Chancellor and the President is really the problem, and it is such an irritant to the Chancellor that he insists on drastic action as he is about to step down, this can likely be fixed by allowing the Chancellor to leave now and return to mending hearts, and an interim Chancellor can be named to work with Powers until a new Chancellor is appointed and has the opportunity to make a fresh assessment and hopefully a fresh start in mending relationships with President Powers as well as supporters of the University. In this way, the Chancellor gets to do what he does so well, the University gets the benefit of Powers leadership for one more academic year, the Board can have more time to get on with the important issues facing all of its component institutions, and the healing process can begin with the alumni, students, faculty, and the legislature. Reporters nationwide will need to turn their attention elsewhere for the next story. The reputation of the University and of the Board is at stake. Thank you for your service on the Board and for your attention to this message. Charles Matthews.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Chris Coney](#)  
**Subject:** [SUSPECTED SPAM] I STAND WITH BILL POWERS  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:09:35 PM

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The forced resignation or firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT. It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, transforming the undergraduate experience, bringing further prestige to UT through his chairmanship of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the establishment of the Dell Medical School.

The Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers. Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.

Why has this decision been made and why now? To date, there has been no reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum and notably, done so over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus.

Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university. Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of a successful and highly regarded president is not in the best interest of UT.

President Powers is willing to work with the System. The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

Regards,

Chris Coney

CNS 2014

**From:** [Christian Baker](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I strongly support President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 9:22:59 AM

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Chairman Foster:

I want you to know that I strongly support President Powers. My name is Christian Baker, and this is important enough to me to take the time to email you.

Christian Baker  
1970 Graduate of the University of Texas

**From:** [Christian Wofford](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I Support President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 12:51:22 PM

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University of Texas System Board of Regents:

While the below words are not my own, they reflect my thoughts perfectly. Please consider them in your upcoming deliberations.

Thank you.

Christian Wofford  
— BA Plan II & Architecture, 2002

Director of Construction  
Americas

Burberry  
444 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
Tel: +1 212 707 6616  
Cell: +1 917 251 1726  
[www.burberry.com](http://www.burberry.com)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board –

I am writing to express my support for President Bill Powers in the strongest possible terms. You are of course aware of the swirling rumors intimating threats to President Powers' position and concern that the Board could act to remove him from his post. I will not pretend to know your minds or the factors influencing your judgment on this issue, so let me instead focus on the vital importance of President Powers to Texas.

Serving as Regent is a great honor, and with that honor comes an attendant duty that is just as great – a duty to Texas. Not simply to the University of Texas, or to the entire UT System, but to the state itself. The mission of The University to stand as 'a University of the first class' is a sacred one, and one that has never been more important to the future of our state. The society we live in, the economy that sustains us, the technology that advances us and the culture that defines us are all shaped by leaders – the men and women who have the intelligence, drive, knowledge and ability to elevate and re-define their fields of endeavor. As we enter a future where America will face unprecedented challenges in the global economy, and where individual states will likely have to look to their own fortunes with less help available from the federal government, the development of these leaders in Texas is absolutely

vital.

A University of the first class is capable of developing these leaders, but that capability is imperiled unless the University itself possesses outstanding leadership. In his six years to date, Bill Powers has demonstrated time and again that he is the outstanding leader that a University of the first class deserves. Under his stewardship, the University has enhanced its reputation in academia, research and student development against a backdrop of the worst economic upheaval in eighty years. No one can predict what fresh challenges the future will bring to our nation, our state or our University, but with Bill Powers serving as President I have tremendous confidence in the University's ability to meet those challenges and thrive.

Of course, you are aware that much of the discussion around President Powers' future has become intertwined with the highest political office in our state as well as with a vision championed by that office as to the future of higher education in Texas.

As to the politics – there was a time when the political realm could be trusted to act in good faith to evaluate and work in concert with educators towards the advancement of higher education. As politics in our state and nation have devolved from an enterprise for advancing society to an exercise in the division of society's spoils, that time is long past. The state's politicians have done enough to imperil our collective future by cutting funding for higher education – to think that any politician could or would directly harm the state's flagship institution by removing an outstanding leader at a whim is unconscionable. Again, the prospect of such an action is still within the realm of rumor. Were it to come to pass, however, I am confident that ANYONE involved in such an action would face the consequences of the fury and outrage of tens of thousands of leaders across every segment of Texas society whose fortunes were shaped by the University of Texas.

As to the vision – among the 'seven breakthrough solutions' that shaped this new vision, there are some elements of merit and others where reasonable minds can disagree and discuss. What cannot be consigned, however, is any outcome that undermines the ability of The University to offer the most exceptional education possible. I was fortunate enough to benefit from two outstanding undergraduate programs during my time at Texas – the Plan II Liberal Arts Honors program and the Honors Business program. I am proud that this education was on par with what

even America's most elite universities could offer, and prouder still that these programs have continued to gain in strength and stature since my graduation in 1998. These programs and others like them at the University serve as an example for the kind of transformative educational experience that we should strive to provide to every Longhorn. Much of the 'vision' entrenched in the Governor's office has to do with providing an efficient education for productive members of society. While there is merit to that vision, it is in no way the same as providing a transformative education for the future LEADERS of society – THAT is the mission of a University of the first class, and that mission must not be compromised by policy or the removal of leaders who can insure its fulfillment.

The direction of The University of Texas has always been vital to the future of our great state. As stewards of that direction, your actions in preserving the greatness of our University will be judged now and for years to come. In this matter, the Eyes of Texas truly are upon you, and I trust that you will embrace your duty to Texas in a manner commensurate with the honor that Texas has bestowed upon you.

<http://www.barkingcarnival.com/2012/5/11/3014464/my-letter-to-the-board-of-regents-concerning-president-bill-powers>

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**From:** [Christina Jackson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:20:39 PM

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Good afternoon,

I wanted to personally reach out and thank you for making the University of Texas a better school by parting ways with President Bill Powers. I have never been a supporter of President Powers as he has continually weakened the curriculum, competitiveness, and overall quality of education at UT. His liberal policies fell drastically short of what this great university and its students deserve.

Thank you,

Christina Jackson  
BBA class of 2012  
BA class of 2012



**From:** [Chuck And Cynthia Murray](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** University of Texas  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:04:28 PM

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**KEEP BILL POWERS PERIOD**

**PLEASE TELL ALL BOARD MEMEBERS ABOUT OUR MAIL**

**WE CARE DEEPLY**

**Charles and Cynthia Murray**  
**McAllen, Texas**

**From:** [Cindy Smiley](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:57:43 AM  
**Importance:** High

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As a proud graduate of The University of Texas, I respectfully urge you and the other members of the Board of Regents to withstand the latest outcries urging the firing of President Powers and to undertake a thoughtful, fair, and unbiased review of the issues at hand. PLEASE do not take any extreme actions without affording President Powers and those who are knowledgeable about these issues to participate in a fair and reasonable process to address and resolve the alleged concerns. It appears to many of us that there has been no due process or other opportunity for unbiased and non-political discussion on the status of our University President, and it would be horrendous (and embarrassing to the University, its alumni, and every other person involved in this decision) to ask President Powers to resign (or to force him out) under such circumstances.

I'm standing by to help if you'd like me to assist.

Thank you for your attention,

Cynthia Cooke Smiley

Austin, Texas

B.A. 1978

J.D. 1981

**From:** [Clair Pritchard](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Employment of William C. Powers, Jr., as President of The University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:49:46 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster,

As a UT alumni, I am writing to express my concern over the news of Bill Powers' potential firing from The University of Texas.

I firmly believe a forced resignation or firing would be immensely detrimental to UT. There is no doubt that this termination without any valid explanation will only lead to more turmoil for the faculty, students, and alumni, and cause severe damage to the university's reputation. It will also set a very dangerous precedent and will ruin the potential to recruit world-class teachers, researchers, students, and ultimately a successor. It is for these reasons that I strongly object Bill Powers' dismissal from The University of Texas. I hope that you will act in the best interest of the university and vote against Bill Powers' removal.

Thank you,

Clair Pritchard

PRITCHARD ASSOCIATES, INC.  
2500 Routh Street • Dallas, TX 75201  
214/849-0011 (main)  
214/734-4494 (cell)

[www.pritchardassociates.com](http://www.pritchardassociates.com)

**From:** [Claire A. Statton](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I Stand with Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:25:53 PM

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Dear Board of Regents:

I write you today in support of Bill Powers. I am a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin (BA '10, JD '13) and a Life Member of the Texas Exes. I am extremely grateful for the education I received at The University of Texas and am proud to be a third generation graduate of such a fine institution.

Since beginning my career at UT in the fall of 2006, I have watched The University change and grow with exceptional merit. I still remember attending Bill Powers' inauguration ceremony as a freshman in college, sitting wide-eyed and listening to his every word. He spoke that day about achieving academic excellence at The University, and over the course of his eight-years Bill Powers has done exactly that. With hard work and invigorating vision for The University, Bill Powers has advanced The University in remarkable ways.

He has been a strong and extraordinary leader who has greatly enhanced the reputation of our University during his tenure. I can attest that as a student at The University from 2006-2013, Bill Powers' achievements revitalized by the student body and created a positive energy throughout the campus. Students were--and still are-- proud to be a part of the contagious Longhorn community and proud to be part of such a growing, successful institution.

Losing Bill Powers would be a devastating to the University, and the negative impact it would have on the University would be destructive.

Bill Powers is an outstanding president, and I have nothing but unyielding admiration for him and his achievements. I strongly encourage the Board of Regents to recognize Bill Powers' achievements and leadership and reconsider ending his term as President. I am confident that allowing him to remain as President would be in the best interest of The University.

I stand with Bill Powers.

Thank you.

Claire McLaughlin Statton  
Midland, Texas  
B.A. 2010, J.D. 2013  
Life Member

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**From:** [Clint Harris](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** The Resign or Be Fired Ultimatum to President Powers is Disgraceful  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 11:03:45 PM

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As an alumnus for my bachelor degree (BBA'79), and lifetime Texas Ex I have been embarrassed by this current board of regents who I do not believe are acting in good faith for the University you are appointed to serve, not the governor, not yourselves, but UT. Regardless of your intent, your actions most decidedly unprofessional.

I am researching groups and organizations that may pursue legal actions and other avenues. Your actions cannot stand. They will not stand unchallenged.

G. Clinton Harris, BBA 1979

**From:** [Cody Knight](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** The University of Texas at Austin President William Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:03:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board of Regents,

I would like to express my concern over the current board threatening to oust a highly accomplished and popular president of Texas' flagship university, and a national leader in higher education. The fact that this "ultimatum" was issued and further leaked to the press is an embarrassment not only to the University of Texas at Austin and the entire UT system, but to the great state of Texas. There is a proper way of conducting business even in the cutthroat realm of politics that the board has grossly neglected. Indeed, it seems the board has neglected its fiduciary duty to the University as well if it sees fit to oust a president that has accomplished so much for the University throughout his term of service. The University of Texas at Austin is a premier academic and research institution whose accomplishments and reputation have only grown through President Powers' term. Any attempt to force a resignation or terminate the service of such an individual clearly does not have the best interest of the University or the people which it serves in mind. Additionally, I think it would be wise for the board to consider the impact their current treatment of Mr. Powers and the accompanying political mudslinging and turmoil will have on continuing to fill important leadership roles within the institution and the UT system with the kind of individuals who truly wish to lead and enact the mission of the University of Texas at Austin to provide exceptional higher education to the future leaders of not only Texas, but the world.

Best,

Cody Knight  
Supervisor, Corporate Accounting  
Sabine Oil and Gas, LLC  
Office: 832-242-9656  
Cell: 281-832-0587



\*\*\*\*\*  
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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Connie Grosskopf](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** KEEP BILL POWERS  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 2:31:52 PM

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Dear Chairman Paul Foster,

We must keep UT President Bill Powers for the solidarity and the quality of leadership that he gives UT.

The conflict must end immediately using the same integrity that President Bill Powers has given the UT system for years.

Thank you for being a part of keeping Powers and UT the best college.

Connie Grosskopf  
'76 alumni



**From:** [Council, Faculty](#)  
**To:** [pakruger@utexas.edu](mailto:pakruger@utexas.edu)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor; cigarroa@utsystem.edu](#); [Board of Regents](#); [Powers, William - UT Austin](#); [Cervantes, Victoria E](#)  
**Subject:** Re: IN SUPPORT OF WILLIAM POWERS from 5 Presidents of the Retired Faculty-Staff Association, The University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:36:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [CCE00003.pdf](#)  
[CCE00004.pdf](#)

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Dear Ms. Kruger,

Thank you for your support of President Powers and for sharing your message with the Office of the General Faculty. I have forwarded it to the Faculty Council Executive Committee.

Warmest regards,  
-Debbie

Debbie Roberts  
Executive Assistant

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN • Office of the General Faculty & Faculty Council • West Mall Building, Room 2.102 • 306 Inner Campus Drive • Stop 9500 • Austin, TX 78712-1135 • Office: (512) 471-8506 • Fax: (512) 471-5984 • Proud member of iForty • NAMI educator & volunteer

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On Jul 8, 2014, at 3:00 PM, Peggy Kruger <[pakruger@utexas.edu](mailto:pakruger@utexas.edu)> wrote:

Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa  
The University of Texas System  
601 Colorado Street  
Austin, Texas 78703

Dear Chancellor Cigarroa:

We write in our positions as former, current, and future Presidents of The Retired Faculty Staff Association (RFSA) of The University of Texas at Austin.

We wish to express strong support for the retention of William Powers as President of The University of Texas at Austin and ask that any decision regarding his retirement take into account any timelines cited by him.

We base this endorsement on the outstanding record of accomplishments achieved during his tenure and the resulting esteem in which The University of Texas at Austin is held, not only in Texas, but nationally and internationally.

The RFSA has a history of strong support for President Powers which was expressed in a resolution from the RFSA Board in May, 2012, and again in a resolution voted upon by the general membership in the spring business

Meeting of April, 2011. Both resolutions were forwarded to you and are attached for your review.

Respectfully,

Peggy A. Kruger, Ph.D.  
President, RFSA UT Austin, 2010-2012  
[pakruger@utexas.edu](mailto:pakruger@utexas.edu)

Dena H. Mersky  
President, RFSA UT Austin, 2012-13  
[REDACTED]

Barbara Myers  
President, RFSA UT Austin Austin, 2013-14  
[REDACTED]

Peggy Mueller  
President, RFSA UT Austin, 2014-15  
[pmueller5@utexas.edu](mailto:pmueller5@utexas.edu)

Nancy Payne  
President-Elect, RFSA UT Austin, 2015-16  
[REDACTED]

cc:

- \*The Office of the President, The University of Texas at Austin
- \*Executive Board, The Retired Faculty-Staff Association, The University of Texas at Austin
- \*The Faculty Council, The University of Texas at Austin
- \*The Texas Exes

ATTACHMENTS:

RESOLUTION from The Retired Faculty-Staff Association, The University of Texas at Austin May 2011

RESOLUTION of SUPPORT from the Board of the Retired Faculty-Staff Association, The University of Texas at Austin May 2012

**From:** [Cristina Adams](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Outraged by Board's Sleazy Handling of President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:31:03 AM

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Mr. Cigarroa:

I have never thought the Board of Regents was a force for good; since Rick Perry took over the governorship, it has been clear that he wanted partisan puppets, not independent-minded individuals with a real passion for great education. However, I thought that you, perhaps, had more integrity than the rest. Given your sneaky, sleazy actions over the July 4th holiday weekend, it's clear that I was wrong.

Bill Powers has propelled the University of Texas into the national and international spotlights, helped to give it the academic stature it wanted and deserved, and largely resisted efforts by partisan fools and politicians to degrade the university's standards of excellence (the ridiculous 10 percent rule and your refusal to increase tuition notwithstanding).

Now, the arrogance of this partisan governor, who has clearly been on a mission to topple Powers and take down the university, and minions like Wallace Hall threaten to erode those gains. And apparently you and the rest of the Board of Regents have drunk the Kool-Aid. What were you thinking? Your actions are nothing less than underhanded and shameful.

The statewide community of students, faculty and alumni support Powers and do NOT want him to go. He has our support. We will be very, very vocal about that support, and we will hold the Board of Regents accountable. Indeed, the best of all possible solutions would be a collective letter of resignation from the Board of Regents.

Sincerely,

C. Adams

Supporter of Bill Powers, the University of Texas and the opportunity for students to enjoy a first-class education free of political posturing, partisan influence and power-mongering.



**From:** [Cullen Schaar](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** UT Austin  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:04:32 PM

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Chairman Foster and fellow Regents,


Newspaper articles and partisan op-ed's provide a clouded window into the ongoing drama between yourselves, Chancellor Cigarroa and UT Austin President Bill Powers. But the public, like the octogenarian in the mezzanine, knows that one need not admire the costumer's embroidery to follow the plot.

As you fight to regain control of what looks to be a botched power grab (the identity of the orchestrator thereof being irrelevant), the hundreds of thousands of UT Austin alumni, millions of taxpayers in this great state and the business owners, investors, moms, dads, and other stakeholders in The University are counting upon each of you to act with the utmost integrity and transparency to insure that our best collective future is sought. Just as shareholder interests are held above all else in the board rooms of the companies you collectively advise, the interests of the public, as the largest stakeholder in The University, must be put above those of political and personal gain.

I would be pleased to discuss this challenge or any others currently facing the board and thank you for your continued service.

Sincerely,

Cullen Schaar  
The University of Texas at Austin - BA, BBA - Class of 2006

Cullen Schaar  
281.774.2134 – o  
214.536.8031 – c  


**From:** [Cullingford, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't fire President Powers  
**Date:** Saturday, July 05, 2014 3:17:30 PM

---

Dear Board of Regents,

As Chair of the English Department at UT Austin, I write to implore you not to fire our President. From the perspective of the Humanities, he is the finest leader that UT has ever had.

He has valiantly supported undergraduate education, and he has been particularly attentive to the Liberal Arts. Do you know that he teaches a Freshman Signature Course on Literature and Philosophy every year?

Since he became President the English Department, a strong teaching Department that is committed to its essential mission of improving undergraduate literacy, has flourished. So has the School of Undergraduate Studies.

No President in living memory has ever commanded such strong support from the faculty, alumni, and students of the University. Please respect the sentiment of the campus, which is overwhelmingly in favor of retaining Bill Powers.

Sincerely,

Liz Cullingford

Elizabeth Cullingford  
Chair, Department of English  
Jane Weinert Blumberg Chair in English  
Distinguished Teaching Professor  
The University of Texas at Austin  
208 West 21st Street, Stop B5000  
Austin, Texas 78712

**From:** [Dahlia Gutierrez](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** ULTIMATUM from Chancellor to U.T. President  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:57:55 PM

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Mr. Foster. I am an alumni of U.T. Austin; classes of '76 and '85. I am shocked and dismayed by the publicity and tone of the circumstances indicating that the Chancellor has given an "ultimatum" to the University President.

I have never been aware of such animosity and incivility within the University administration since I was first enrolled in this University in 1971. It is a disgrace to the educational system and the standards of the University of Texas.

It gives an appearance of "incompetency" and "pettiness" to the other universities in our State and certainly around the country.

President Powers has been a part of the University system at least as long, if not longer than the Chancellor: as a tenured professor who distinguished himself as an author / scholar in this field; as a Dean of a major law school and then as President of the University. Short of being convicted of a "crime", I can see no rational situation in which he should be given a public "ultimatum" and essentially be disgraced in front of the University community and the academic world. In fact, it is the Chancellor who should be admonished for acting in a manner that contravenes the ethical and civil standards of our University, and denies "due process" and a proper, balanced and impartial evaluation of the circumstances.

I employ you and the other regents to pursue this manner in a tempered and dignified manner, without resorting to personal, petty "feelings" or personal dislike and animosity and to consider the reputation of the institution we all so dearly love. We owe to the alumni, if not more to our children and grandchildren to uphold the dignity of the University's reputation and its standards.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very sincerely yours,  
DAHLIA M. GUTIERREZ  
Dahlia M. Gutierrez



**From:** [Dakotah J Smith](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us); [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us)  
**Subject:** Please keep President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:46:09 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster,

I'm writing as both an alumni who cares deeply about the future of The University of Texas and also as the President of the Texas Exes Washington, DC Chapter.

The events over the last few years, and especially the events over July 4th, have left a deep scar on our University's reputation on the national stage. In Washington, DC those with no direct affiliation to UT constantly approach me to ask me details and nuances of the current relationship between the Board of Regents and Bill Powers. There is a collective feeling amongst my texan and non-texan colleagues alike that what's happening is a display of politics at its worst.

I ask that the Board of Regents please take a step back and take a moment to breath. Situations like these can quickly snowball out of hand and I know that everyone involved wants what's best for the University, we just have different perceptions of what that is exactly.

I stand behind the vision of UT as a world-class institution of research and higher learning. What happens there truly changes the world, every day. We don't need cheap degrees. Young texans have access to cheap (in every sense of the word) degrees from several institutions already, both physical and online. What UT continues to offer is a world-class education, at what is widely known to be a great tuition for the value received.

My degree from The University of Texas is one of the my most valuable possessions, and I'm proud to not have gone to a school who valued profit and efficiencies over the long-term value of the education and degrees offered.

Bill Powers has been a tremendous asset to both The University of Texas and the State of Texas in general, lifting our reputation and our credibility to new heights. I sincerely hope that the Board of Regents do NOT fire Bill Powers and instead work with him to establish a less turbulent path forward.

The Eyes of Texas are Upon You,

Dakotah Smith  
President, Texas Exes Washington DC Chapter

**From:** [Dan Moreland](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:31:11 AM

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Please use reasonable common sense as the various political factions work to unseat Powers. As idiotic as that action is, it will only harm UT more if it is allowed to go forward in this highly detrimental manner

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [David C Bonner](#)  
**To:** [four.price@house.state.tx.us](mailto:four.price@house.state.tx.us)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Dr. William Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:00:19 PM

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Dear Representative Price,

I write to protest the reported ultimatum given to Dr. William Powers, President of UT Austin, by outgoing Chancellor Cigarroa.

I am a Life Member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association, a Distinguished Engineering Graduate of UT Austin, and I have served on the Engineering Advisory Board (formerly Engineering Foundation Advisory Committee) since the late 1980's – meaning that I've served on many other voluntary committees and on various projects for UT over the years. Our family has made investments in UT Austin, including named laboratory, professorship, and fellowship.

My son is a 5-th generation alumnus.

I am *outraged* by the manner in which apparent issues with the administration have been handled recently. The manner in which Regent Hall and now Chancellor Figueroa have handled this matter is pure bad faith. Regent Hall should either resign or be impeached, convicted, and removed. Chancellor Cigarroa should leave immediately.

Whatever misgivings about administration at UT Austin exist, it is clear that President Powers' administration has been one of the most successful of recent years. He is a national figure in academics and major university administration as well as a noted legal scholar. Handling matters in the way they have been done bring disrepute to Texas, its Legislature, and the Executive Branch.

Going forward, I urge that the manner of investigation and resolution be handled properly so as not to bring the State, its flagship university, and a nationally recognized academic leader and legal scholar into further disrepute.

It has taken many decades for the University of Texas to rise into the ranks of world-renowned universities. Please don't throw away this progress with ultimata, vendettas, and outrageously ill-advised actions which violate the principles of due process and enlightened government.

Sincerely,

David C Bonner, Ph.D.  
2801 Post Oak Blvd.  
Ste 180  
Houston, TX 77056  
Tel. (713)234-6894  
Fax. (713)456-2769

**From:** [David C Bonner](#)  
**To:** [charles.perry@house.state.tx.us](mailto:charles.perry@house.state.tx.us)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Dr. William Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:57:29 PM

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Dear Representative Perry,

I write to protest the reported ultimatum given to Dr. William Powers, President of UT Austin, by outgoing Chancellor Cigarroa.

I am a Life Member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association, a Distinguished Engineering Graduate of UT Austin, and I have served on the Engineering Advisory Board (formerly Engineering Foundation Advisory Committee) since the late 1980's – meaning that I've served on many other voluntary committees and on various projects for UT over the years. Our family has made investments in UT Austin, including named laboratory, professorship, and fellowship.

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Sincerely,

David C Bonner, Ph.D.

PS In the 1970's I was a faculty member in Chemical Engineering at Texas Tech. It was one of the periods I remember most fondly and of which I am most proud.

2801 Post Oak Blvd.  
Ste 180  
Houston, TX 77056  
Tel. (713)234-6894  
Fax. (713)456-2769



**From:** [David C Bonner](#)  
**To:** [trey.martinez.fischer@house.state.tx.us](mailto:trey.martinez.fischer@house.state.tx.us)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Dr. William Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:54:02 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Representative Martinez Fisher,

I write to protest the reported ultimatum given to Dr. William Powers, President of UT Austin, by outgoing Chancellor Cigarroa.

I am a Life Member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association, a Distinguished Engineering Graduate of UT Austin, and I have served on the Engineering Advisory Board (formerly Engineering Foundation Advisory Committee) since the late 1980's – meaning that I've served on many other voluntary committees and on various projects for UT over the years. Our family has made investments in UT Austin, including named laboratory, professorship, and fellowship.

My son is a 5-th generation alumnus.

I am *outraged* by the manner in which apparent issues with the administration have been handled recently. The manner in which Regent Hall and now Chancellor Figueroa have handled this matter is pure bad faith. Regent Hall should either resign or be impeached, convicted, and removed. Chancellor Cigarroa should leave immediately.

Whatever misgivings about administration at UT Austin exist, it is clear that President Powers' administration has been one of the most successful of recent years. He is a national figure in academics and major university administration as well as a noted legal scholar. Handling matters in the way they have been done bring disrepute to Texas, its Legislature, and the Executive Branch.

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Sincerely,

David C Bonner, Ph.D.  
2801 Post Oak Blvd.  
Ste 180  
Houston, TX 77056  
Tel. (713)234-6894  
Fax. (713)456-2769

**From:** [David C Bonner](#)  
**To:** [lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Dr. William Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:52:12 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Representative Larson,

I write to protest the reported ultimatum given to Dr. William Powers, President of UT Austin, by outgoing Chancellor Cigarroa.

I am a Life Member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association, a Distinguished Engineering Graduate of UT Austin, and I have served on the Engineering Advisory Board (formerly Engineering Foundation Advisory Committee) since the late 1980's – meaning that I've served on many other voluntary committees and on various projects for UT over the years. Our family has made investments in UT Austin, including named laboratory, professorship, and fellowship.

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Whatever misgivings about administration at UT Austin exist, it is clear that President Powers' administration has been one of the most successful of recent years. He is a national figure in academics and major university administration as well as a noted legal scholar. Handling matters in the way they have been done bring disrepute to Texas, its Legislature, and the Executive Branch.

Going forward, I urge that the manner of investigation and resolution be handled properly so as not to bring the State, its flagship university, and a nationally recognized academic leader and legal scholar into further disrepute.

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Sincerely,

David C Bonner, Ph.D.  
2801 Post Oak Blvd.  
Ste 180  
Houston, TX 77056  
Tel. (713)234-6894  
Fax. (713)456-2769

**From:** [David C Bonner](#)  
**To:** [eric.johnson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:eric.johnson@house.state.tx.us)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Dr. William Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:49:00 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Representative Johnson,

I write to protest the reported ultimatum given to Dr. William Powers, President of UT Austin, by outgoing Chancellor Cigarroa.

I am a Life Member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association, a Distinguished Engineering Graduate of UT Austin, and I have served on the Engineering Advisory Board (formerly Engineering Foundation Advisory Committee) since the late 1980's – meaning that I've served on many other voluntary committees and on various projects for UT over the years. Our family has made investments in UT Austin, including named laboratory, professorship, and fellowship.

My son is a 5-th generation alumnus.

I am *outraged* by the manner in which apparent issues with the administration have been handled recently. The manner in which Regent Hall and now Chancellor Figueroa have handled this matter is pure bad faith. Regent Hall should either resign or be impeached, convicted, and removed. Chancellor Cigarroa should leave immediately.

Whatever misgivings about administration at UT Austin exist, it is clear that President Powers' administration has been one of the most successful of recent years. He is a national figure in academics and major university administration as well as a noted legal scholar. Handling matters in the way they have been done bring disrepute to Texas, its Legislature, and the Executive Branch.

Going forward, I urge that the manner of investigation and resolution be handled properly so as not to bring the State, its flagship university, and a nationally recognized academic leader and legal scholar into further disrepute.

It has taken many decades for the University of Texas to rise into the ranks of world-renowned universities. Please don't throw away this progress with ultimata, vendettas, and outrageously ill-advised actions which violate the principles of due process and enlightened government.

Sincerely,

David C Bonner, Ph.D., P.E.  
Chairman & CEO  
Stematix™, Inc.  
2801 Post Oak Blvd.  
Ste 180  
Houston, TX 77056  
tel. +1-713-234-6894  
mobile +1-713-444-0592 (US)  
mobile +54-11-2188-3758 (AR)  
mobile +1345-923-2070 (KY)



fax +1-713-456-2769

email: [REDACTED]

web: [www.stematix.com](http://www.stematix.com)

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**From:** [David C Bonner](#)  
**To:** [naomi.gonzalez@house.state.tx.us](mailto:naomi.gonzalez@house.state.tx.us)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor](#); [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Dr. William Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:46:20 PM

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Dear Representative Gonzalez,

I write to protest the reported ultimatum given to Dr. William Powers, President of UT Austin, by outgoing Chancellor Cigarroa.

I am a Life Member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association, a Distinguished Engineering Graduate of UT Austin, and I have served on the Engineering Advisory Board (formerly Engineering Foundation Advisory Committee) since the late 1980's – meaning that I've served on many other voluntary committees and on various projects for UT over the years. Our family has made investments in UT Austin, including named laboratory, professorship, and fellowship.

My son is a 5-th generation alumnus.

I am *outraged* by the manner in which apparent issues with the administration have been handled recently. The manner in which Regent Hall and now Chancellor Figueroa have handled this matter is pure bad faith. Regent Hall should either resign or be impeached, convicted, and removed. Chancellor Cigarroa should leave immediately.

Whatever misgivings about administration at UT Austin exist, it is clear that President Powers' administration has been one of the most successful of recent years. He is a national figure in academics and major university administration as well as a noted legal scholar. Handling matters in the way they have been done bring disrepute to Texas, its Legislature, and the Executive Branch.

Going forward, I urge that the manner of investigation and resolution be handled properly so as not to bring the State, its flagship university, and a nationally recognized academic leader and legal scholar into further disrepute.

It has taken many decades for the University of Texas to rise into the ranks of world-renowned universities. Please don't throw away this progress with ultimata, vendettas, and outrageously ill-advised actions which violate the principles of due process and enlightened government.

Sincerely,

David C Bonner, Ph.D., P.E.  
Chairman & CEO  
Stematix™, Inc.  
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Houston, TX 77056  
tel. +1-713-234-6894  
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mobile +1345-923-2070 (KY)

fax +1-713-456-2769

email: [REDACTED]

web: [www.stematix.com](http://www.stematix.com)

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**From:** [David C Bonner](#)  
**To:** [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Dr. William Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:42:22 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Representative Alvarado,

I write to protest the reported ultimatum given to Dr. William Powers, President of UT Austin, by outgoing Chancellor Cigarroa.

I am a Life Member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association, a Distinguished Engineering Graduate of UT Austin, and I have served on the Engineering Advisory Board (formerly Engineering Foundation Advisory Committee) since the late 1980's – meaning that I've served on many other voluntary committees and on various projects for UT over the years. Our family has made investments in UT Austin, including named laboratory, professorship, and fellowship.

My son is a 5-th generation alumnus.

I am *outraged* by the manner in which apparent issues with the administration have been handled recently. The manner in which Regent Hall and now Chancellor Figueroa have handled this matter is pure bad faith. Regent Hall should either resign or be impeached, convicted, and removed. Chancellor Cigarroa should leave immediately.

Whatever misgivings about administration at UT Austin exist, it is clear that President Powers' administration has been one of the most successful of recent years. He is a national figure in academics and major university administration as well as a noted legal scholar. Handling matters in the way they have been done bring disrepute to Texas, its Legislature, and the Executive Branch.

Going forward, I urge that the the manner of investigation and resolution be handled properly so as not to bring the State, its flagship university, and a nationally recognized academic leader and legal scholar into further disrepute.

It has taken many decades for the University of Texas to rise into the ranks of world-renowned universities. Please don't throw away this progress with ultimata, vendettas, and outrageously ill-advised actions which violate the principles of due process and enlightened government.

Sincerely,

David C Bonner, Ph.D.  
2801 Post Oak Blvd.  
Ste 180  
Houston, TX 77056  
Tel. (713)234-6894  
Fax. (713)456-2769

**From:** [David Roche](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:15:53 PM

---

Board of Regents:

I am embarrassed with how the dismissal of Coach Brown was handled and now I am even more embarrassed with how you are handling President Bill Powers.

A strong hand is needed to restore the credibility of the Board of Regents and in turn, regents need to learn to respect their colleagues. Additionally, President Powers needs to be treated with the same level of respect that Coach Brown should have been given. I hope that one of you will step up and take control of this mockery and set the University on the right path. All this acrimony has hurt not only your credibility but that of the University as well. Each one of you can do better.

David Roche  
Austin, TX

**From:** [David Schaefers](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:58:54 PM

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa and Board,

This is just a brief note to let you know that I support President Powers and that I am a fan of the great work he has done during his presidency. I am not sure what the issue at hand is, but I would like to express my concern about how this has been handled. I feel that President Powers has done a great job of communicating the ongoing life and vision of the University of Texas, so me, as an alumni.

I love the University of Texas and hope that the coups and micromanagement coming from the Board will stop.

The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You!

M. David Schaefers '02  
28 Creekwood Cir.  
Richardson, TX 75080

**From:** [DELAYE ERIC](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers resignation  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:45:34 PM

---

Dear Sir,  
I met Bill Powers one time at Paris at least 6 years ago, he was also in charge of Enron special investigation report in 2002, and has been one of my preferred president since I left the University in 1986. He looked dedicated to the University, and ethical. It is why it is hard for me to understand why he is asked to resign. Anyway, take care that such a turmoil would not affect the reputation of theUniversity and its balance of power. One regent has already been impeached.

Yours faithfully

Eric Delaye  
33 6 17 28 62 11

**From:** [Delbert Cox](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** UT Advocates  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:53:08 PM

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I believe it would be a serious mistake for Chancellor Cigarroa to attempt to oust UT-Austin president Bill Powers, or for the Board of Regents to even consider such a move. I have always been very proud of our University and the excellence for which it stands, and I feel that Bill Powers has been doing a good job under adverse circumstances. I have been very disappointed in Governor Rick Perry (for whom I voted, but could not do so again) and Regent Wallace Hall.

Chancellor Cigarroa, I hope that you and the majority of our Board of Regents will do the right thing and let Bill Powers do his job. Please avoid sinking to the level of some who want Bill Powers out, but not based on the merits of his performance. Let's keep Bill Powers!

Delbert M. Cox  
BBA (1965)  
LLB (1966)



**From:** [Diana Molina](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Ultimatum  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 4:10:26 PM

---

Dear Chairman Paul Foster and Board of Regents,

I am writing in favor of keeping Bill Powers as president of UT Austin.

By firing Mr. Powers or forcing him to resign, what will that prove to our adolescents and young adults who will eventually run this country? It will send a message that rational problem solving is not the way to get results anymore. Instead, firing Mr. Powers would teach that if a colleague doesn't share your views, it's OK to violate laws to get 'em out. Worse yet, it reinforces the ill-conceived notion that working hard and doing good only gets you...fired.

Granted, the public isn't privy to all the details, but let's face it: what's going on is irrational and illogical.

As the saying goes, decisions should never be made when emotions are charged. More often than not, doing so results in the wrong decision and plainly makes poor business sense.

I'm in the business of advocating for the sound future of my children, my family, community, state and nation. We all know how Mr. Powers has been good for UT and good for Texas. Let's not take a huge step backwards by allowing the firing or forced resignation of President Bill Powers.

Diana L. Molina

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Dianne Wells](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:21:09 PM

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As a UT alumna, I am deeply disturbed by what appears to be an irrational and politically motivated attack on an outstanding educational leader. I greatly fear that your actions will damage an institution I love and excite contempt in the higher education community.

Mrs. R. G. W-E. Wells  
3804 Coleridge St.  
Houston, Texas 77005  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [cmiles@austincc.edu](mailto:cmiles@austincc.edu)  
**Subject:** The Firing of President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:45:41 PM

---

Dear Sirs and Madam:  
Dr. Cigarroa,

In 1959, when I got the chance to come to UT, I was one of the proudest young Black boys in the country. My connection with The University has been heartening and continues to drive me to do things ,though small, to highlight The University in the face of other like me. At that time, my activities were pretty much limited on campus and weren't always welcoming. Even the regents were antagonistic when I wanted to participate in extracurricular activities. Occasionally, I would find a friendly, welcoming hand or gesture from someone, like Bill Powers. Today, Bill has made everyone feel that UT belongs to the people of Texas and has done a fine job to enhance the image across the world. I hope you will find enough people on the board to see the value in keeping him with The University.

When looking at the risks and rewards, it is obviously better to keep President Powers at the helm. Many in my circle see the action of some on the board as a gratuity to the Governor. In my mind, I have tried to dismiss this notion. I hope you will allow President Powers to stay and continue to build an exemplary university. I don't understand the urgency.(not granting one more year ???)

Best regards

Lonnie Fogle (281) 744-7908  
President of The Precursors

**From:** [Dolph Briscoe](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#); [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Powers, William - UT Austin](#)  
**Subject:** Please Support President Powers  
**Date:** Saturday, July 05, 2014 3:34:46 PM

---

Dear Dr. Cigarroa,

My name is Dolph Briscoe IV, and I am a graduate student in the Department of History at UT-Austin. I have had the honor of meeting you in the past with my grandfather, the late Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.

I am writing you today to express my deep concern over recent news reports that UT-Austin President William Powers may be fired next week. I believe such a development would be terrible for UT. In my opinion, President Powers has been an outstanding leader, especially in his goal of making UT-Austin the top public university in the United States. He is greatly respected among students and faculty on campus, as well as nationally, especially with his role as president of the Association of American Universities.

Removing President Powers from office would bring much negative attention to UT. It would be unfair to a great leader who has done so much for the university. I fear that this would set UT-Austin back years, severely undermine its academic reputation, and damage morale on campus.

My grandfather admired you very much, Dr. Cigarroa, as do I. He also held great respect for President Powers. I am convinced that he would be very worried about this situation, which reeks of political meddling by Governor Perry's office.

Thank you for reading my message, and for your service to UT.

Sincerely,  
Dolph Briscoe IV

--

Dolph Briscoe IV, M.A.  
Doctoral Candidate and Teaching Assistant  
Department of History  
The University of Texas at Austin

**From:** [Don Rothwell](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of President Bill Powers and UT Austin  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:53:45 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster,

As Alumni of the University of Texas at Austin we are writing in support of President Bill Powers. We feel he has brought the school to academic excellence especially in the field of research.

As a previous participant in a research program at the University, Laurie feels strongly that our national and world recognition in this area should not be jeopardized. We feel a change at this time is harmful to the future vision of the University if it is to continue to be one of the leading academic institutions in the world.

We therefore request your support of Bill Powers as President of the University of Texas at Austin.

Regards,

Laurie Farber Rothwell (B.S.Ed. - 1971)  
Donald Joe Rothwell (B.S.M.E - 1970)

**From:** [Don Williams](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Powers Firing  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:01:08 PM

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This is a travesty to force out President Powers. The regents need to tell the Chancellor to sit down and shut up, and leave Powers alone.

DR Williams, BBA 1974

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#); [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us); [dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us); [naomi.gonzalez@house.state.tx.us](mailto:naomi.gonzalez@house.state.tx.us); [eric.johnson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:eric.johnson@house.state.tx.us); [Lyle.Larson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Lyle.Larson@house.state.tx.us); [Trey.Martinez.Fischer@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Trey.Martinez.Fischer@house.state.tx.us); [charles.perry@house.state.tx.us](mailto:charles.perry@house.state.tx.us); [four.price@house.state.tx.us](mailto:four.price@house.state.tx.us)  
**Subject:** Do not fire Dr. Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 4:56:09 PM

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I am writing as a concerned Texas Ex. The ongoing problems with Regent Wallace Hall and the "Seven" deadly recommendations has made me question the ability of the Regents to govern the System with any expertise. Now it is rumored the Board is considering the termination of President Powers. To date, there has been no reason given as to why Powers would be given this ultimatum. He has advanced The University through many tremendous accomplishments while working with an overreaching Governor and difficult Board of Regents.

I am a graduate of The University of Texas. My children are graduates of The University of Texas. My two sisters and two brothers are graduates of The University of Texas. We are all concerned you do not have our university's best interest in mind so we are asking that you do not cause any further tension with legislators, faculty, students, and alumni. Keep President Powers.

Elizabeth Kreston Schlitt, Ph.D.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I Stand With President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:51:45 PM

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Greetings,

As a native Texan born and raised in Houston, UT-Austin Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering graduate of 2002, Stanford University Master of Science graduate of 2003, Texas resident, and engineering manager on the Houston ship channel at a world-class manufacturing facility, I stand with Dr. William Powers as the President of the University of Texas.

The University of Texas at Austin, as stated in the Texas State Constitution, shall be a "university of the first class." Removing Dr. Powers would hinder this goal.

Hook 'em!  
Dustin Shaw  
BSME 2002  
Life Member, Texas Exes



**From:** [Elizabeth Davis](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers Embarrassment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:45:21 AM

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Dear Board of Regents:

Let me first say how disgusted and embarrassed I am for you, for the University of Texas, and for President Powers. I don't know what provoked Chancellor Cigarroa to make such a bold proclamation against President Powers not do I care. I am completely embarrassed at the way you all have displayed what I consider to be the character and turpitude of the UT system. Regardless of your personal beliefs of President Powers, it is in no way appropriate, professional or classy to demand that someone resign or be fired to get your way. Last time I checked the Board of Regents wasn't supposed to get involved in politics and was supposed to do what was best for the university. By allowing Chancellor Cigarroa to make such bold demands on your behalf is an embarrassment to the university and has no ones interest in mind except the individual. After the rumors and speculation came out about Mack Brown and his forced exit, we are being made to look like fools. This "media frenzy" that YOU have created is tarnishing the reputation of the university. Have we no dignity and class that we can't discuss our differences in face to face meetings to come to mutually beneficial agreements?

As a graduate of the university and a Texas Ex I demand that you eliminate all the negative media attention you are bringing to our school by reinforcing your support of President Powers. I'd hate to learn that a disgruntled Chancellor has enough authority to force someone so esteemed and intelligent out of office simply because he himself was being pushed out as well.

Elizabeth (Eldridge) Davis  
BA, 2006

**From:** [Elizabeth Davis](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers embarrassment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:33:25 AM

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Dear Board of Regents:

Let me first say how disgusted and embarrassed I am for you, for the University of Texas, and for President Powers. I don't know what provoked Chancellor Cigarroa to make such a bold proclamation against President Powers not do I care. I am completely embarrassed at the way you all have displayed what

Elizabeth Davis

**From:** [Elizabeth Simnacher](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Please keep President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:31:48 AM

---

I am a graduate of UT, a member of Texas Exes, and a strong supporter of President Powers.

Betsy Simnacher  
972-291-8408  
972-765-8408 cell  
[longhornedit.com](http://longhornedit.com)

**From:** [Ellington, Austin](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:31:08 AM

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From: feedback@utsystem.edu On Behalf Of Christopher Renaud  
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2014 9:30:15 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: UT System Public Affairs  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations

Submitted on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 - 09:30 Submitted by anonymous user: [198.147.139.133]  
Submitted values are:

Name: Christopher Renaud  
Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
Message:

To the University of Texas System Board of Regents:  
I respectfully request that when you consider the employment of President William Powers that you allow him to retire on the timeline he has requested, that being the end of May, 2015.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<http://content.utsystem.edu/node/1031/submission/9351>

**From:** [Emily Scheinfeld](#) on behalf of [Emily N Scheinfeld](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 7:59:36 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster

The Fourth of July Coup is one of the saddest things I have seen come up since being affiliated with The University in the past ten years. Yes, there are petitions out there, emails circulating, articles being posted, and individuals and entities expressing their concern. But firing President Powers would be the biggest mistakes The University could possibly do, and would not only impact our community, but other large research universities across the country who are focusing in on Austin and what occurs in the next week. An article posted a few talking points when emailing you, and because I cannot say it better myself, nor can I make a valid argument without getting frustrated and upset for the place I have been so proud to call my home due to my affordable education, but most of all what it means to have a BS and soon PhD from The University of Texas at Austin. I have supported us, I have bragged, and I have defended us against others. So, I beg of you, rethink this decision. The University has raised more money, gained more prestige, topped the charts in a variety of contexts (both for academics, student life, faculty life, and the overall experience).

**The firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT.** It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, his presidency of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the Dell Medical School.

**The Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers.** Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.

There has been no reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus. Nor, are ultimatums in the best interest of The University. Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT and does not set a good precedent or model for other universities or our community.

And if all else fails to keep Powers in office, for whatever reason, **President Powers is willing to work with the System.** The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

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**Emily Scheinfeld**  
Assistant Instructor | PhD Student  
Department of Communication Studies  
The Moody College of Communication  
The University of Texas at Austin  
CMA A7.112  
2504 Whitis Avenue - A1105  
Austin, Texas 78712

p: 770.401.5058  
e: [enscheinfeld@utexas.edu](mailto:enscheinfeld@utexas.edu)  
office: CMA 5.172

**From:** [Eric Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 2:49:26 PM

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I strongly support President Bill Powers and his right to resign on his own terms. As a graduate of the University, I applaud President Powers for the tremendous job he has done. For him to be forced out now would be a huge black eye for our great institution. Thank you,

**Eric Anderson**  
Driftwood Properties



**From:** [Eric Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to Chairman Foster  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 1:25:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter - Chairman Foster 7 7 14.pdf](#)

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Please forgive the earlier error, this letter is the scanned copy of a letter sent via mail to Chairman Foster today.



**From:** [Eric Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Disregard Earlier Email  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 1:07:20 PM

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Unfortunately there was an error in printing, the corrected document will be sent shortly.

**From:** [Eric Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Letter from Rep. Eric Johnson  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 1:04:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter - Chairman Foster 7.7.14.pdf](#)

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Please confirm receipt of this email at your earliest opportunity.

**From:** [Erin Naman](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 1:29:35 PM

---

Dear Mr. Foster,

I am writing in support of President Bill Powers. Like countless other alumni from The University of Texas I was horrified to learn of the ultimatum issued to President Powers last Friday and the upcoming Board of Regents vote concerning his future at UT. While there have been many ugly incidents regarding President Powers and the Board of Regents over the past few years, this surpasses all others.

I urge you, as Chairman of the Board of Regents, to consider what is best for the University - including students, faculty and alumni - when casting your vote tomorrow. Now is not the time to consider the interests of a few, politically motivated individuals but to consider what is best for the flagship university of the state of Texas. Much damage has already been done to the University's reputation thanks to the antics - I am being polite here - of some members of the Board of Regents. Voting to fire President Powers, current president of the prestigious AAU, would only do further harm and impact the University's ability to hire a president of the first class in the future. That is why I am calling on you to consider the long term ramifications of your vote tomorrow. The students, faculty and alumni deserve no less.

It is the job of the Board of Regents, as I understand it, to act in the best interest of the UT System, not the best interest of the same politically motivated few I referenced earlier. We deserve, and demand, that you do no less than that which you were charged to do as Chairman of the Board. To do anything less would be a disservice to the UT community and the state of Texas. Our reputation is damaged, can UT survive another blow?

I am the mother of two young children. It is my hope that in thirteen years when my oldest begins to look at colleges that UT has recovered from the hit these past few years have taken to her reputation and that I can proudly encourage her to make UT her choice of college. Voting tomorrow against the firing of President Powers would be a huge first step in allowing UT to heal.

It is my sincere hope that you consider what is best for UT tomorrow when casting your vote. President Powers has done so much for UT and does not deserve to be forced out in this way. This reflects poorly on everyone involved. Let the healing process begin tomorrow and vote to retain Bill Powers.

Erin Campbell Naman  
BBA 2000

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Erin Campbell Naman  


**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Cigarroa, Francisco](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** UT and Bill Powers  
**Date:** Saturday, July 05, 2014 7:54:58 PM

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Francisco,

The failure of positive leadership by Bill Powers at UT-Austin has resulted in the loss of millions of dollars of donations from us and others to the Butler School of Music and dozens of donors lost as well. He did keep his crony dean who has no education in music to dictate policies that fail to help the music school move forward.

It is past time for the Butler School of Music to obtain its independence as we have a very competent new Director, Mary Ellen Poole, who can turn around the momentum and make the school realize its full potential.

Now is the time to move forward on both Powers resignation and independence for the Butler School of Music.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Evan Griffiths](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** support of President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 11:48:20 AM

---

Dear Board of Regents:

As a graduate of The University of Texas and a lifelong member of the Texas Exes, I am writing in support for stability at The University of Texas. I support advancing its mission and its leadership. I believe every single one of you, as the governing body, should receive—and even welcome—the unvarnished views of professional educators, like President Powers. I am writing in full support of President Bill Powers.

Thank you,  
Evan J. Griffiths  
12108 Drujon Lane  
Dallas, TX 75244

**From:** [External Caller \(UTMAS\)](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Voice Mail Message ( "5125470601" ) ( 39 seconds )  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:05:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [VOICEATT.WAV](#)

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The attached voice message was created by Avaya's Modular Messaging. It can be played on a multimedia-enabled PC running Windows. To listen, please open the attachment.

**From:** [External Caller \(UTMAS\)](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Voice Mail Message ( [REDACTED] ) ( 50 seconds )  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 7:16:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [VOICEATT.WAV](#)

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The attached voice message was created by Avaya's Modular Messaging. It can be played on a multimedia-enabled PC running Windows. To listen, please open the attachment.

**From:** [External Caller \(UTMAS\)](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Voice Mail Message ( "8323878190" ) ( 1 second )  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 5:22:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [VOICEATT.WAV](#)

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The attached voice message was created by Avaya's Modular Messaging. It can be played on a multimedia-enabled PC running Windows. To listen, please open the attachment.



**From:** [External Caller \(UTMAS\)](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Voice Mail Message ( "7137813555" ) ( 16 seconds )  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 5:22:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [VOICEATT.WAV](#)

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The attached voice message was created by Avaya's Modular Messaging. It can be played on a multimedia-enabled PC running Windows. To listen, please open the attachment.

**From:** [External Caller \(UTMAS\)](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Voice Mail Message ( "9724149109" ) ( 48 seconds )  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 5:09:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [VOICEATT.WAV](#)

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The attached voice message was created by Avaya's Modular Messaging. It can be played on a multimedia-enabled PC running Windows. To listen, please open the attachment.

**From:** [External Caller \(UTMAS\)](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Voice Mail Message ( "7139601706" ) ( 28 seconds )  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 5:05:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [VOICEATT.WAV](#)

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The attached voice message was created by Avaya's Modular Messaging. It can be played on a multimedia-enabled PC running Windows. To listen, please open the attachment.

**From:** [External Caller \(UTMAS\)](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Voice Mail Message ( "2102411557" ) ( 32 seconds )  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:22:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [VOICEATT.WAV](#)

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The attached voice message was created by Avaya's Modular Messaging. It can be played on a multimedia-enabled PC running Windows. To listen, please open the attachment.

**From:** [External Caller \(UTMAS\)](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Voice Mail Message ( "9404531464" ) ( 1 minute 35 seconds )  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:38:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [VOICEATT.WAV](#)

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The attached voice message was created by Avaya's Modular Messaging. It can be played on a multimedia-enabled PC running Windows. To listen, please open the attachment.

**From:** [External Caller \(UTMAS\)](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Voice Mail Message ( "5128615838" ) ( 1 minute 3 seconds )  
**Date:** Friday, July 04, 2014 7:27:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [VOICEATT.WAV](#)

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The attached voice message was created by Avaya's Modular Messaging. It can be played on a multimedia-enabled PC running Windows. To listen, please open the attachment.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Dr. Powers is needed at UT  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:28:12 AM

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To the Board of Regents--I am writing on behalf of my husband and me--lifetime Texas Exes. My family includes four generations of proud University of Texas alumni: my grandmother and grandmother, the late Dr. and Mrs. M. L. Stubblefield, my father, the late Dr. Robert L. Stubblefield, UT and UTMB in Galveston; my sister and her husband, Carol S. and David H. Rowley; my husband Hollye C. Fisk --UT architecture and UT law school. myself Susan S. Fisk, UT BA with honors, 1970; our sons David Fisk, UT BA in economics (2002) and now a Dallas lawyer, and R. Carson Fisk, UT law (2003) and now an Austin lawyer--both young men are Rising Star Texas lawyers; also our daughter-in-law--Casey C. Fisk--UT (2002) and now a Dallas lawyer with Vinson & Elkins--also a Rising Star Young lawyer. We support UT and how it changed our lives! We received the new Alcalde Saturday with Kay Bailey Hutchinson's column honoring Bill Powers for being THE BEST president--the same day the front page of the Dallas Morning News had a story that "leaked" a report that Dr. Powers will be fired. This is shameful to the University and to our national reputation. Read today's Dallas Morning News column by a now MIT professor who was at UT--"Bill Powers, my President." Dr. Powers has led UT to be better and stronger. We need his continued leadership. Susan S. Fisk 6554 Valleybrook Drive Dallas, TX 75254

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: Support UT Austin Pres. Bill Powers  
Date: Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:29:18 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster and the UT System Board of Regents,

I am writing to you to beseech you to show your support for UT Austin President Bill Powers in Chancellor Cigarroa's most recent attempt to politicize higher education. Pres. Powers is willing to work with the UT system to create a seamless transition of power unlike Chancellor Cigarroa.

My name is [REDACTED] and I graduated with highest honors from the Cockrell School of Engineering at UT Austin in [REDACTED]. I am currently working toward a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at [REDACTED] - an opportunity I was afforded because **the University of Texas at Austin offered me a quality engineering education that was affordable, an education that was supplemented greatly by the research culture at this world class institution.**

The degree I earned at UT Austin is so much more than the 165 credit hours I earned or 3.9487 GPA that I worked tirelessly for. My degree is the countless hours I spent doing undergraduate research for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My degree is the outreach, service, and professional development I was given through student organizations and special programs such as the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **These opportunities are present at the University of Texas because it is a world class institution, and would most assuredly not be sustainable at a \$10,000 'trade school' like Gov. Perry has imagined and Pres. Powers has resisted.** Pres. Power's vision is what allows the University of Texas to award degrees that are more than just classes, and I am certain the impending medical school and \$3 billion Campaign for Texas led by Pres. Powers will only further the value of a UT Austin degree.

Additionally, I was admitted to all seven institutions I applied to for my graduate education: MIT, Stanford, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Minnesota, the University of California Santa Barbara, the University of Delaware, and Georgia Tech. Each of these institutions is ranked as a top ten program in chemical engineering (as is the University of Texas). **I was admitted to these institutions because their faculty respect the University of Texas and the value added nature of a research institution - I can assure you this respect will be lost or depreciated with the forcible removal of Pres. Powers from office.**

Respect from faculty, staff, alumni, current students, and prospective students will also be swiftly lost if Pres. Powers is forced to resign. During my undergraduate education I volunteered my time to the Cockrell School Development Office giving tours to prospective donors. I firmly believe these alumni give to the University because they want to see UT be the very best and recruit the brightest. **Support for the university, both monetary and in kind, will be seriously reduced upon unnecessary politicization of this great place.** I will most certainly withdrawn my current and future donation plans.



As a former student who respects the University of Texas deeply, I firmly believe that I deserve more respect than Chancellor Cigarroa has shown me. Chancellor Cigarroa has not provided me with a substantial reason for his ultimatum which leads me to believe he has other motives which go directly against the instruction of lawmakers. In "acting in the best interest of the University of Texas," **Chancellor Cigarroa has failed to see how much the state and its residents benefit from having a world class research institution in it's backyard.**

One last time, I beg you to support Pres. Powers in this fight.

The eyes of this Texas Ex are upon you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Frels, Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:34:10 PM

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Dear Chair Foster:

I have followed the Board of Regent's activities regarding President Bill Powers from the beginning. While I obviously am not privileged to all the facts, I am alarmed at where I see the Board of Regents headed for a number of reasons. I am writing out of concern for my University, higher education in Texas and for the people of the state itself. Frankly, this dispute has smelled of politics at the highest level from the beginning. I urge you and the other members of the Board of Regents to not proceed with the termination of President Powers, a president who I believe has led The University well and who has protected The University's interests, probably to his personal detriment. It takes courage to stand tall in the face of those with political influence.

Over my 44 years as an education lawyer, I have presided over or have represented colleges and school districts in numerous institutional separations and divorces of college presidents and school superintendents. In the absence of what is clearly good cause, I have found that an outright "termination" brings only sorrow and turmoil for the institution and the individual involved – no one wins, and the damage takes years to repair. Those experiences were regional and local, so a statewide and nationwide reaction can be anticipated from a similar action involving The University of Texas President. Generally, the damage is enhanced by the inevitable litigation and public acrimony that follows the termination.

If the separation is about a desire to change focus with a different person or the desired change is political in nature, it is far better to negotiate a separation that is fair and preserves the institution. I desire nothing short of that goal for The University of Texas and President Powers. In mentioning this approach, please know that I do not favor the removal of Bill Powers as President of The University of Texas, but if the removal is politically inevitable, please protect the interests of The University so it can continue its constitutional mission in Texas.

Respectfully,  
Kelly Frels  
Houston

**From** Gary Bartunek - as Bob  
**To** Board of Regents  
**Subject** I support LBJ, not S  
**Date** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 6:48:30 AM

G

Office of the Board of Regents

Ashbel Smith Hall, Suite 820

201 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Austin, Texas 78701

Gary Bartunek

90 Blue Spruce Circle

Weston, Connecticut 06883

Phone: 203-517-7792

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board:

I am writing to express my unconditional support for William Powers.

President Powers has the right and the duty to strongly advocate for what he believes to ensure that the University of Texas will be a "University of the First Class" as is mandated by the Texas Constitution. As members of the Board of Regents, you also have the duty to ensure that the University of Texas remains on its current path of becoming the nation's premiere public education and research institution. Removing a strong and effective leader for no cause except to settle a grudge on behalf of a lame duck Governor would send the strong negative message to the faculty, students, and any future candidates for the position of President that the future direction of the University is entrusted to the whims of the sitting Governor instead of a pursuit of excellence. It would set back the progress that has been made over the last few decades.

We all know that the current admissions "scandal" which hardly merits further investigation, much less the removal of a sitting President, "discovered" by a witch hunt conducted over several years by illegal means by one of your members is nothing but a red herring. The real issue is Powers' refusal to implement the mis-guided "Seven Breakthrough Solutions" which would turn the University into a glorified community college with the added bonus of enriching certain politically connected donors.

I would hope that I can appeal to the "better angels of your nature" and ask you to put aside any personal loyalties or antipathies and preform the job you to which you were entrusted: to secure the future of the University of Texas and by extension, the State of Texas.

The eyes of Texas are upon you. The pride and winning tradition of the University of Texas will not be entrusted to the weak or the timid.

Sincerely,

Gary Bartunek

College of Communications

Class of 1990

7/8/2014

**From:** [Gary McGregor](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** UT President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:16:06 PM

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## Chairman Foster

We in the Texas engineering community support President Powers. It is because of The University of Texas drive to be a tier 1 research institute that has given us an advantage. We are becoming very familiar with schools in other states which focus on a pump and dump model. The engineers lack engagement, intuition, initiative, and competency.

Having a tier 1 research university is very important to Texas. UT is ranked in the top 10 engineering schools in the nation. To attend a school ranked any higher one would have to travel to the east or west coast. Other schools in Texas have responded positively to this, each one pushing the bar, knowing a Texas school can compete nationally against the traditional education areas across the US. The research brings in valuable new technology, backed by companies to develop them adding jobs and economic growth. MIT and Lincoln Labs has a super track record with this, and can be used as a great example.

Please continue to let President Powers run his term, and help end the media show surrounding the University.

Thank you for you time and service;  
Gary McGregor

**From:** [Gary McGregor](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** UT President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:40:46 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster

We in the DFW engineering community support President Powers. It is because of The University of Texas drive to be a tier 1 research institute that has given us an advantage. We are becoming very familiar with schools which focus on a pump and dump model. The engineers lack engagement, intuition, initiative, and competency.

Having a tier 1 research university is very important to Texas. UT is ranked in the top 10 engineering schools in the nation. To attend a school ranked any higher one would have to travel to the east or west coast; that is how extreme the situation is.

Please continue to let President Powers run his term, and help end the media show surrounding the University.

Thank you for you time and service;  
Gary McGregor

**From:** [Gary Thompson | Austin, TX](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I'm a Texas Ex & I Support President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:39:37 PM

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Chairman Foster & All UT Regents -

I am a 2000 graduate of the UT School of Law, a degree I pursued after working professionally for Apple, Inc. the previous ten years.

I am proud to have added a Texas degree to my out of state academic accomplishments, after moving to Texas from Chicago in 1994. I am also proud to have gotten to know Bill Powers while we has still Associate Dean at the law school. I am even more proud of what he accomplished as Dean of the law school, following my graduation, as well as during his time as President of the University of Texas at Austin.

Obviously, personnel decisions at this level are the responsibility of the regents, however, the outright firing of President Powers would not only be a travesty but would go against the specific instructions of the Texas legislature and would occur while there is an active investigation of one of the regents. Such an ultimatum over a holiday weekend in the midst of these other considerations only makes a citizen of the state and an alum wonder what is really going on.

After watching the commencement address of Admiral McRaven, I would hope the Regents would act in the same spirit of honor, transparency and dignity.

Hook 'Em Horns,

Gary L. Thompson  
JD, UT School of Law, 2000

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** UT Austin President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 12:13:21 PM

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As a degree holder and supporter of excellence at The University of Texas at Austin, I read with alarm that Chancellor Cigarroa instructed President Powers to either resign or risk being fired by the Board of Regents. I recognize that members of the public like me do not have all information that may be relevant to this situation. While I have great respect for Dr. Cigarroa and the Board of Regents, it is my strongly held opinion that firing President Powers in these circumstances would have a serious detrimental effect on the reputation of The University of Texas at Austin as a first class academic institution. Absent evidence of serious wrongdoing, President Powers should be allowed to continue in office until he is agreeable to resigning. Public information indicates that he is willing to leave voluntarily in June, 2015. In light of his many years of service to The University of Texas, the unquestionably positive recognition he has brought to The University, his current service as Chair of the American Association of Universities, and the extreme negative implications that would attend his involuntary discharge, I urge the Chancellor and the Board of Regents to put the long term best interest of The University of Texas at the forefront of considerations and reach a mutually agreeable resolution to this situation.

Law Office of George Butts  
8911 North Capital of Texas Hwy  
Westech 2, Suite 2120  
Austin, TX 78759

512.815.7872

[REDACTED]

[www.georgebuttslaw.com](http://www.georgebuttslaw.com)

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**From:** [Gene Wright](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Dr. Powers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 10:46:00 PM

---

Dear Regent Foster

I have followed the news about Dr. Powers and have seen nothing that would warrant his forced resignation. Please reconsider the ultimatum that he quit or be fired. He has done great things for the university and deserves to be treated accordingly.

Thank You

Gene Wright

Lifetime Texas-Ex



**From:** [George Bradford](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I support Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:37:51 PM

---

Dear Board of Regents: I write you today in support of Bill Powers. I am a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin (BA '87, JD '90). I am grateful for the education I received there. And the institution means a great deal to me.

As a proud Texas Ex Life Member I've watched my Torts professor advanced to Dean of my law school and President of my university. And I've been very favorably impressed every step of the way.

Bill Powers was one of the best teachers I ever had. He was one of the best Deans the law school has ever seen. And as president, Bill Powers has lead the university with clear vision, solid judgment and relentless integrity.

Bill Powers is not a politician, manager, or supervisor. He something quite different. Bill Powers is very rare and quite extraordinary in this world. He is a genuine leader.

And I cannot imagine any rational reason why the Board of Regents would seek to undermine Bill Powers' leadership.

Bill Powers has been an outstanding president. And I believe Bill Powers is currently on his way to being one of the best university presidents any school has ever had.

If I could choose any individual on Earth to lead my university there is no one I would select other than Bill Powers. And I'm confident that an objective review of his record will lead the Board of Regents to the same conclusion. Please join me in my support for Bill Powers.

Thank you.

George Bradford  
1235 Springdale Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:10:03 AM

---

Dear Chairman Foster:

I refer you to my email below to Chancellor Cigarroa.

I would like to add one thing. I was at a fundraising dinner recently honoring Todd Maclin, one of UT's distinguished alums. All in attendance were strong UT supporters. In Todd's speech, he made reference to Bill Powers, his achievements and the controversy surrounding him. Before he could finish his words, the audience gave a standing ovation for President Powers, and he was not even present in the room.

I think this board has grossly underestimated the popularity of this President, and has not fully considered the ramifications if he were to be fired.

For the sake of our great University, I urge you to take control of this matter as only someone in your position can do. Please grant President Powers' request to conclude his Presidency in an orderly and respectful manner. He deserves it, and so does the entire University of Texas nation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Sunday, July 6, 2014 at 12:23 PM  
**To:** "[chancellor@utsystem.edu](mailto:chancellor@utsystem.edu)" <[chancellor@utsystem.edu](mailto:chancellor@utsystem.edu)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** President Powers

Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,

I am writing to express my support for President Powers, and my dismay over the news reports regarding the ultimatum given him.

It is unnecessary to chronicle President Powers massive achievements during his tenure, or to mention his almost universal support from faculty, students and alumni. I know you are already aware of these facts.

My wife and I graduated from UT and are ardent supporters. We have donated over \$2m to The University, and have several existing multi-year pledges. My daughter [REDACTED] graduated from UT in 2013.

If President Powers departure is imminent, which is both unfortunate and grossly unwarranted in my opinion, I hope we can count on you and the Board of Regents to handle this matter in a professional and respectful manner. Given the actions of the Board of Regents of late, I am not confident this will be the case.

Here is my ultimatum, and I think I am speaking for thousands of former students and other supporters of UT. If President Powers is not treated with the upmost respect or if his reasonable resignation terms are not honored, I will not financially support UT in any manner in the future, and I will do everything I can within the law to rescind any existing pledges. I apologize for the directness, but The University of Texas deserves better and the reputation of our university has never been more at stake.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Class of 1983

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** FW: President Powers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 1:30:30 PM

---

Please find attached correspondence to Chancellor Cigarroa.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Sunday, July 6, 2014 at 12:23 PM  
**To:** "[chancellor@utsystem.edu](mailto:chancellor@utsystem.edu)" <[chancellor@utsystem.edu](mailto:chancellor@utsystem.edu)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** President Powers

Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,

I am writing to express my support for President Powers, and my dismay over the news reports regarding the ultimatum given him.

It is unnecessary to chronicle President Powers massive achievements during his tenure, or to mention his almost universal support from faculty, students and alumni. I know you are already aware of these facts.

My wife and I graduated from UT and are ardent supporters. We have donated over \$2m to The University, and have several existing multi-year pledges. My daughter [REDACTED] graduated from UT in 2013.

If President Powers departure is imminent, which is both unfortunate and grossly unwarranted in my opinion, I hope we can count on you and the Board of Regents to handle this matter in a professional and respectful manner. Given the actions of the Board of Regents of late, I am not confident this will be the case.

Here is my ultimatum, and I think I am speaking for thousands of former students and other supporters of UT. If President Powers is not treated with the upmost respect or if his reasonable resignation terms are not honored, I will never again financially support UT in any manner, and I will do everything I can within the law to rescind any existing pledges while encouraging others to do the same. I apologize for the directness, but The University of Texas deserves better and the reputation of our university has never been more at stake.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Class of 1983

**From:** [Glenn Turner](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Cigarroa/Powers/Hall  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:47:25 PM

---

Hello Paul, We all know the basis for Governor Perry's virtual war against Bill Powers and who recommended Wallace Hall to the Governor as an appointee to the Board of Regents, and why.

These circumstances cannot be ignored when the Board is when considering the firing of Powers; I believe they would be irrevocably brought to the fore by any such firing and further damage our great University. As an adjunct issue, why would Cigarroa, who resigned as Chancellor (and was blasted by Hall shortly thereafter), as a "Lame Duck", suddenly take the lead in trying to fire Powers? Also, there are rumors flying about some unnamed "whistle blower(s)" disclosing or asserting unidentified grievances against Powers; and, that all of this will be *disclosed on this Thursday at the public meeting of the Board at which Powers will be fired*. As a lawyer, I am appalled and embarrassed for UT that this entire matter smacks of a procedural lynching, unworthy of the greatest educational institution in Texas. I urge you and the Board to proceed in accordance with the utmost caution, fairness and rejection of any precipitous action regarding Bill Powers.

Sincerely, Glenn Turner, Dallas, Tx.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Wallace Hall and Texas Monthly  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2014 4:49:45 PM

---

Greetings:

Amazing reading the article on your Wallace Hall in latest Texas Monthly now online.

Millions of dollars spent on UT Austin investigation yet NO PROOF of anything done illegally or proving Powers has done anything wrong.

Just an endless quest for Wallace Hall to hurt our school.

Please ask yourself if one Person and one UT System school merits 100% attention from Hall: at least document that Hall spends any time trying to help any other System School: perhaps that would be enough proof to fire him. No Regent should be allowed to be on the Board if that Regent does not get involved with the entire UT System.

GLHemphill

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** cover up  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:49:25 PM

---

If you fire Powers your actions will be seen as a cover up of FERPA/HIPPA violations.

But the John Birch Society, Empower Texas, Sandefer will love you and send you mailers promoting White Supremacy.

Easy Way Out: Let Powers stay until June, 2015.

GLHemphill

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** 3 billion dollars  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 10:26:03 AM

---

Three billion dollars: President Powers is on track to raise 3 billion dollars for the UT System through UT Austin.

Yet you want to fire him, Why?

Absent any honest proof of any illegal activity you really sound like you are taking orders from your far right friends: Sullivan, Sandefer, Paxton, Empower Texas, and The John Birch Society.

Keep Powers!

Greg Hemphill



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** attn: Chairman Foster  
**Date:** Saturday, July 05, 2014 11:55:07 AM

---

Greetings:

I think you would be wise to honor President Powers' request to resign next June.  
He could attend the next legislative session to prevent UT Austin from having its budget axed.

He could continue to raise funds.

He could help transition to the next president.

We True Longhorns request honoring Powers , and not firing him this next week. Thanks,

Greg Hemphill

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor](#); [Safady, Randa S.](#); [LaCoste-Caputo, Jenny](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Friday, July 04, 2014 3:14:32 PM

---

The Chancellor has made a foolish decision and I hope the Board of Regents decides against firing.

Why the sudden decision: I hope you can defend your actions.

Greg Hemphill

**From:** [Gloria Lenoir](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Powers, William - UT Austin](#)  
**Subject:** Re: I support President William Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 1:10:27 PM

---

Correction on Magnum Collection gift, valued at over \$200,000,000.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gloria Cisneros Lenoir, M.A., M.B.A., (U.T. Austin), Ph.D. (U.T. Austin)  
Walter Frank Lenoir, B.S., M.A.  
Lucy Gloria Lenoir, B.A. (U.T. Austin)  
Katherine Judith Lenoir, B.S., M.S.  
Walter Frank Lenoir, Senior at U.T. Austin

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 9, 2014, at 1:03 PM, Gloria Lenoir <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Honorable Members of the Board,

>

> I am writing this letter of support for President Williams Powers. We, those named below, believe he has done a wonderful job as president of The University of Texas at Austin. He has diligently championed building a student population that is diversified, allowing under represented minorities to attend one of the finest public universities in the United States, and assisting those who are not minorities to have the opportunity to learn how to deal with diversity.

>

> His fundraising has been phenomenal in financial times that some find confusing and fearful. People have come forth and donated funds and gifts of great worth, i.e. the Dell and his friends's Magnum Collection gift to the Harry Ransom Center valued at over \$200,000.

>

> He is always out in front of the students, welcoming them to the new year and seeing them graduate. He provides warm words of welcome and encouragement at as many events as he is able to attend. He is gracious and attentive, showing elegant politeness and manners that we would like all of our students and grown adults to have.

>

> Ultimatums do not provide good role modeling to the nation and the world. They show an un-collaborative and negative view of our university. Positive work together provides more harmony and continued positive growth for The University of Texas at Austin.

>

> "What starts here changes the world." Let us show peaceful means to a great future.

>

> Sincerely,

>

>

> Gloria Cisneros Lenoir, M.A., M.B.A. (UT Austin), Ph.D. (U.T. Austin)

> Walter Frank Lenoir, III, advanced studies UT Austin

> Lucy Gloria Lenoir, B.A. (UT Austin)

> Katherine Judith Lenoir, B.S., M.S., (has worked at U.T. Austin, College of Education)

> Walter Frank Lenoir, IV (Began studies at Virginia Tech, is Senior at U.T. Austin)

**From:** [Gloria Lenoir](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Powers, William - UT Austin](#)  
**Subject:** I support President William Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 1:04:00 PM

---

Honorable Members of the Board,

I am writing this letter of support for President Williams Powers. We, those named below, believe he has done a wonderful job as president of The University of Texas at Austin. He has diligently championed building a student population that is diversified, allowing under represented minorities to attend one of the finest public universities in the United States, and assisting those who are not minorities to have the opportunity to learn how to deal with diversity.

His fundraising has been phenomenal in financial times that some find confusing and fearful. People have come forth and donated funds and gifts of great worth, i.e. the Dell and his friends's Magnum Collection gift to the Harry Ransom Center valued at over \$200,000.

He is always out in front of the students, welcoming them to the new year and seeing them graduate. He provides warm words of welcome and encouragement at as many events as he is able to attend. He is gracious and attentive, showing elegant politeness and manners that we would like all of our students and grown adults to have.

Ultimatums do not provide good role modeling to the nation and the world. They show an un-collaborative and negative view of our university. Positive work together provides more harmony and continued positive growth for The University of Texas at Austin.

"What starts here changes the world." Let us show peaceful means to a great future.

Sincerely,

Gloria Cisneros Lenoir, M.A., M.B.A. (UT Austin), Ph.D. (U.T. Austin)  
Walter Frank Lenoir, III, advanced studies UT Austin  
Lucy Gloria Lenoir, B.A. (UT Austin)  
Katherine Judith Lenoir, B.S., M.S., (has worked at U.T. Austin, College of Education)  
Walter Frank Lenoir, IV (Began studies at Virginia Tech, is Senior at U.T. Austin)

**From:** [Greg Savera](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Bill Powers!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:46:40 AM

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please do what is right for The University of Texas, the state of Texas and the citizens of Texas by allowing President Powers serve out his term for the 2014-2015 school year. Don't mess with Texas!

Greg Savera  
UT Grad-1983

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Gregg](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I support bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 1:01:41 PM

---

Stop trying to depose one of the best presidents in the university's history. The faculty, students and alumni overwhelmingly approve of his performance and he has done a great job raising money for the school, helping to create a new medical school and he continues to teach very popular classes on campus as well.

With the climate your are creating in the state, you will not be able to recruit another gifted president to fill the void. Why would anyone want to fill that job at a University that is constantly under attack for striving for excellence???

Gregg

[Gregg's LinkedIn Profile](#)

**From:** [Gregory Pulte](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** KEEP BILL POWERS!!  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 12:50:05 PM

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I am writing to express disgust that the status of President Bill Powers is even in question. Dr. Powers is the best thing that has happened to UT since Darrel K Royal. His leadership and integrity are unsurpassed. He guided the university through the greatest recession since the Great Depression with unfaltering success. He successfully lead the \$3 billion campaign under the worst economic and political conditions. His skill is unsurpassed.

I am an alum and a graduate student working to complete a PHD. I am also a legacy student with a long history at UT Austin. The integrity of the university matters to me and hundreds of thousands of other students and alumni like me.

I urge this board not to fall victim to the political machinations pushing the unjust and malicious termination of Dr. Bill Powers. This board should understand that there are hundreds of thousands of graduates and alumni who share this sentiment. DO NOT FIRE BILL POWERS!!

Very sincerely yours,  
Gregory Pulte

**From:** [Griffin, Kenneth E.](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Forced Ouster of Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:11:55 PM

---

The Board of Regents

I find it appalling that this effort has been allowed to go this far. My first two degrees are from UT, and its reputation as a research university gave me credibility to be assigned to some of the most important aerospace projects in the U. S. Air Force plus an invitation to pursue an Air Force sponsored Phd in Aerospace Engineering . The kinds of low brow antics that you people have allowed to develop quickly destroys what the university has worked hard for decades to establish. President Powers has contributed to the expansion of our reputation, and I must guess that the recognition that he has garnered has prompted jealousy or envy among you that permits this reputation destruction. You are an embarrassment to the state of Texas and should be ashamed to sit on this board. Stop this now. Fix it.

Dr. Kenneth Griffin  
BS ASE, 1970; MS ASE, 1972



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:50:07 AM

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I strongly disagree with the request to have President Powers resign. He has done much to enhance the stature and reputation of U.T. Austin. Wallace Hall has done nothing to improve U.T. Austin. I strongly support his impeachment. I am sick and tired of the ongoing disruption and controversy and it is apparent that the incompetence and mismanagement is entirely the fault of the U.T. System. You should all resign.

Hans Graff  
B.A. '84, J.D. '87  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Heather H Wills](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:14:14 PM

---

Chairman Foster,

I am respectfully contacting you to express my concern for recent reports about President Powers and his status at The University of Texas. President Powers has significant support from the people who matter most - students, parents and Texas Exes. These groups are his - and your - customers.

The timing of the apparent attempt to oust him is suspect - few students are in Austin and alumni are on vacation. This leads us to believe that the Board of Regents and the Chancellor is trying to make underhanded moves. This is making the system look foolish. Any move against President Powers will negatively impact the university's standing - negatively impacting recruiting of both students and professors.

My expectation is that you and the Regents will act in the best interests of the University. President Powers may very well agree that a change is needed. However, a smooth transition that respects all parties and protects UT is a must.

Sincerely,

Heather Wills  
MBA 93, BS 89, parent of incoming freshman

**From:** [Herb Goodman](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#); [Board of Regents](#); [William Powers](#)  
**Subject:** The future of Bill Powers as President of UT Austin  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:39:38 PM

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TO:

Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D.

Ernest Aliseda

Alex M. Cranberg

Paul L. Foster

Wallace L. Hall, Jr.

R. Steven Hicks

Jeffery D. Hildebrand

Brenda Pejovich

Wm. Eugene Powell

Robert L. Stillwell

Max Richards, Student Regent

William C. Powers, Jr.

Dear Chancellor Cigarroa, Members of the Board of Regents, President Powers,

In the Fall of 2009, my son Jacob was a dear-in-the headlights freshman at UT Austin. As luck would have it, he was fortunate enough to have as one of his first semester classes, a seminar / focus class taught in the evening only to freshmen by President Powers himself. My son arrived for that very first class, on the very first night of his college life, a mere 5 minutes early. Alas, he was the last one to arrive, and the only seat left was directly to the side of and adjacent to President / Professor Powers. As we all know, where you sit on day one is where you sit for the semester, and thus he developed a slightly sore neck for the entire semester as he craned to his right to focus on his teacher. Of all the incredible experiences he had over his four years...perhaps that first night was the highlight of his college life.

As the class wrapped up, and as all were departing the room, the leader of one of the largest universities in the country took the personal time to engage Jacob in chit-chat. Where are you from? Why did you choose UT? What are you studying? This was quite an awe inducing engagement for any kid....but on his first day of classes, to be in the President's conference room, taking an incredible class, engaging in small talk no less! And yet it got better. As President Powers grabbed his briefcase, he looked

at his watch, realized on that late summer evening that the sun was setting....and then invited Jacob to go out on the balcony of the main building...and watch the sun set over the Capitol, downtown Austin and the hills of Westlake. Just Bill and Jacob enjoying a peaceful sunset on the first day of classes.

As anxious parents sitting in Dallas waiting for that "how was your first day" phone call.....we never could have anticipated the call we got as he walked home. He recounted the above story...and told us that he was pretty sure that what just happened was the highlight of his college career. How could it possibly get any better? And yet it did. He went on to become a Teaching Assistant for President Powers a few years later, graduated with a great degree from one of the finest ( if not the finest ) universities in the country, and is a well educated and surely to be very successful young man. And now our youngest will start there this Fall.

What started that night surely changed Jacob's world. But I suspect that was but a typical encounter for President Powers. While I do not profess to know all that is required of him in his position.....how could a University of the caliber of UT Austin want anything more from a President than the kind of man who will stop to watch the sunset with one of his 50,000 charges? Balancing budgets, setting proper goals and objectives, hiring and firing....all surely important. Even getting along with Chancellors and Boards are part of the requirement I am sure. But when it gets down to "what are we here for"....changing a student's life has to be at the core of the job description. I wonder how many other parent's have perhaps witnessed how one person, in one small way, did indeed make such a big impact?

While you ponder the fate of President Power's continued tenure as President of UT Austin, as an alumni myself (BArch '78) and parent of one who was touched by his greatness, I would ask that you put aside politics, hurt feelings, he said / she said....and ask yourselves what the University really wants and needs for its leadership. A man who will watch the sunset with a student for no reason other than to take a little time from his life to help change the world is not often found and surely not easily replaced.

Sincerely,

---

Herb Goodman  
214-537-1441

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Herb Hurn](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Subject: Have you gone to the dark side?  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 2:33:57 PM

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To: The Chancellor and the Board of Regents (BOR) of The University of Texas System

If media reports are correct, I am incredibly disappointed that the Chancellor and some members of The Board of Regents have lost perspective in the turmoil surrounding the UT System and Bill Powers.

I can only hope that most members of the BOR will speak out in support of Bill Powers who is the best Tier 1 University President in the AAU. He is so recognized by the nation if not by the likes of Regent Wallace, ET. AL., and RP driven by the TPPF and its known supporters.

Where is the sense and reason of all this? There is none; it's all been ideological and vindictive politics.

The three or more years of turmoil has been a terrible reflection on the Board of Regents, the Governor, the TPPF and their supporters in the matter, the State and now the Chancellor.

But as expected, Bill Powers has responded with wisdom, grace and respect in spite of this latest insult. What he deserves is to be treated and recognized with highest honors for all the value he brings and has brought to The University of Texas in his thirty-seven years on the Law School faculty, as Dean of the Law School, and President of The University.

One only has to read Bill Powers' bio at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Powers,\\_Jr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Powers,_Jr). to see who he is and what UT and the State will lose if the recent turn of events plays out.

I urge the Chancellor and the Board of Regents to listen to the rising outcry over this astonishing action, to rethink what is being done, and do what is right for The University of Texas, the State of Texas, and higher education everywhere!

Hook'em Horns

Herbert Hurn  
Highland haven, TX

Herbert Hurn

**From:** [Hope Lochridge](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** My Support for President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:34:29 AM

---

Dear Board of Regents:

Please accept this email as my support for President Powers. He has been an outstanding leader and is well respected. Removal of him from his position will hurt the University and its reputation as a strong academic institution. I am a UT graduate and will be critical of the University if he is removed. I will no longer contribute to the University in any way. Thank you, Hope Lochridge, Austin, Texas

**From:** [Howard Hallam](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:22:30 AM

---

Keep Bill Powers!

Howard Hallam  
UT BA Plan II, 1965  
UT Law, 1968



**From:** [Huffhines, Ted](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** University President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:43:43 AM

---

Dear Chancellor and Board of Regents,

I am contacting you to share with you that as an alumni of our great university, I believe it would be a travesty for you to force the resignation of President Powers. This would magnify the considerable unrest and tension that has already been created by your previous attempts to micromanage the operations of the university. Considerable harm would be inflicted upon the students, faculty and alumni. Serious harm would also be thrust upon the reputation of national reputation. The prestige of our university is already being dragged through the mud by the political maneuvering being done to discredit President Powers and all that has been accomplished under his leadership. I ask that he be able to complete the tasks before him and exit gracefully in the summer of 2015.

The Eyes of Texas are upon you,

Ted Huffhines  
President  
Harrison County Texas Exes

--

***Ted Huffhines***  
Executive Director of Operations- **MISD**

903-927-8705 fax 903-472-4886

**Moving from Good to Great!**

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

R. W. Emerson

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*"This email may contain the thoughts and opinions of the sender and does not represent official Marshall ISD policy. This message may also contain information that may be confidential and privileged. Unless you are the addressee, or you are authorized to receive for the addressee, you may not use, copy, or disclose to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received this email in error, please advise the sender by reply email and delete the message."*

**From:** [Humboldt Mandell](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor](#); [Leslie Cedar](#); [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us); [dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us)  
**Subject:** Damaging the University of Texas System  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:30:43 PM

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Gentlemen and Ladies:

The purpose of this letter is not to defend Bill Powers, but rather to defend academic freedom.

Intervention in the internal affairs of our Flagship university, however noble you believe your reasons (and you have not made your reasons clear up to now), will be immediately damaging to the reputation and future of our System. As one who has participated very actively in the recruitment of excellent students and faculty, I can tell you that just the threat of this intervention has already caused damage.

If you carry out the threat to "fire" president Powers, it could take a generation for our system to recover and resume the national reputation that we all have worked so hard to obtain.

You are at a crossroads. You can be remembered as the Board that brought the UT System to the forefront of the nation as a rising star, or as the Board which destroyed its chances of reaching its full potential for the next generation.

Please consider these comments as you deliberate.

I send best wishes for reaching our common goals of improving the University of Texas System.

Sincerely,

Humboldt C. Mandell, Jr., Ph.D.  
Past President, Texas Exes  
Research Fellow, UT Center for Space Research

Humboldt Mandell

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 4:54:58 PM

---

I think you should agree to Bill Power's timetable. All of this public furor is very detrimental to the University. I know Bill Powers and I think he has done a lot for UT.  
This is all being handled very poorly. We are going to lose some good people over this process.

Robert C. Hunter  
Plan II 1963

**From:** [j michael corbett](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** in support of bill powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 1:31:23 PM

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ladies and gentlemen of the board;

i realize the challenges confronting your board are complex; that easy solutions are not forthcoming due to that complexity. regardless you have accepted the position to guide our university through this period. it appears the political elements have overtaken and overshadowed the work of finding common ground upon which the various stakeholders may work together. i believe you have lost your way due to these political considerations.

do you really believe that forcing bill powers to resign will clear the way to allow the board to function in its goal of governance for the university? leadership of our university always faces opposing points of view. your job is to evaluate the effectiveness of your president and find means to bring aid to the UNIVERSITY. not a political doctrine. your allowing politicization of the process fails to bring workable solutions to the mission of the university.

i hope and plead you will strongly endorse bill power's presidency and leadership of the university of texas. then use the opportunity you have provided yourselves to get back to advancing the greatness of our university.

i am looking forward to a direct reply to my note here and to seeing your board moving forward on its mission. regards j michael corbett

**From:** [J&A McMullan](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President of UT  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 11:03:47 PM

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Chairman Foster, the firing of Bill Powers would cause irreparable harm to UT's reputation, increased tension with legislators regarding the UT System, unnecessary unrest among faculty, students, and alumni, would make it difficult to recruit and retain excellent faculty. President Powers has advanced the university through endless stellar achievements, somehow cutting \$490 million from the university's budget while distinguishing UT by his presidency of the AAU. Please use your leadership to keep this President and maintain the reputation of my distinguished alma mater. Ann McMullan, Class of 65

**From:** [Jack Ratliff](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:17:33 PM

---

July 7, 2014

To Mr. Paul Foster and the UT Board of Regents:

I am a graduate of UT and taught on the law faculty for 20 years, where Bill Powers was my esteemed colleague. Bill Powers has shown the kind of leadership that we need at UT. It is a tragedy for our University that a group of Regents has conspired to oust such an outstanding leader and administrator. Best I can tell, this movement is led by one who is under a continuing investigation for serious breaches of fiduciary duty. This kind of shenanigan—the attempt to fire a popular president with no apparent cause when students and faculty are on a holiday—will bring us into disrepute in the academic community. It will make the recruitment of outstanding faculty very difficult in the future. It will be seen as Texas below-the-belt-politics of the worst kind.

As a loyal UT alumnus and a former member of the permanent law faculty, I ask you to use your position and influence to see that this abuse of power does not go unchecked. Bill Powers needs to stay on as President.

Yours respectfully,

Jack Ratliff

Class of '56

Recipient of UT Law's Outstanding Alumnus Award, 2007

**Jack Ratliff**  
**158 1/2 Lorenzo Road**  
**Santa Fe, NM 87501**  
**505 424 4344**  
**512 415 4521 Cell**

**From:** [Jack Withem](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:16:43 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster,

You have allowed the University of Texas to become a laughing stock. UT had an excellent reputation until the board of regents forgot how to fire someone. Who wants this job now? Who leaves a good job to be subjected to this treatment when the predecessor has the support of the faculty, students and prestigious national organizations?

If you had the dirt to fire him you should have done it a year ago without fanfare. If you didn't have the dirt you should not have gone public in an attempt to get political support. If you didn't have the guts to do your job then why should we support you now when you have allowed the university reputation and especially the board of regents reputation to be needlessly damaged.

The only reason for firing given by the people I speak to is that Powers didn't roll over for that academic giant, Rick Perry. I guess a majority of the board will.

I and my family loves and respects UT. Please don't damage it for political reasons.

Jack Withem  
BBA UT Austin 1969  
JD UT Austin 1972

son:  
BBA and BA UT Austin 2001  
JD Texas Tech, 2014

daughter:  
BA, highest honors, 2005  
Masters George Washington 2007

**From:** [James Racanelli](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [chancellor@utsystem.edu](mailto:chancellor@utsystem.edu)  
**Subject:** Support of Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:04:01 PM

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A public termination threat to the school president is an awful embarrassment to The University of Texas and our state. One would think a board could work this situation out in a dignified manner.

**James Racanelli**

Mortgage Banker  
NMLS # 217317

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**From:** [James Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:35:51 PM

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Please keep President Powers. He a leader who always has the best interest of UT Austin in mind. His attackers do not.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Jane Clements Monday](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 7:39:57 AM

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I strongly support President Powers. Our and your University is a first class institution looked up to around the world. Please do not make us look like the laughing stock of the world. Please act in a first class manner and negotiate a dignified exit for President Powers.

He needs to have time to wrap up our very successful capital campaign which is the envy of most Universities in the nation. We will need continued support from our alumni and this action would be irresponsible. The University of Texas is better than this.

Please consider your actions carefully. Those actions will determine our future for years to come. You are charged with doing no harm. We are counting on you to represent us and our beloved University well.

Sincerely,

Jane Monday

Jane Clements Monday  


**From:** [Jason Mellard](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers Is the Leader UT Needs  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:22:09 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster:

The latest news on the continuing political tensions between the UT Board of Regents and President Powers is quite troubling. The dismissal of Powers would set UT back many years and do irreparable harm to its reputation in the academic community and its ability to attract top talent. The state constitution calls for a "university of the first class"--not a "university of maximum efficiency and utility." That these two important priorities are not always one and the same is something President Powers understands. Let there be debate over pedagogy and admissions within the UT system. Such as conversation will be positive for the state as a whole. But Powers does have the best interests of UT at heart and deserves to exit on his own terms and timeline. The scars caused by the Ferguson and Rainey fights in the university system should prove instructive.

Sincerely  
Jason Mellard

**From:** [Jason O'neil Post](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Don't Mess with UT and Don't Mess with Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:49:33 PM

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Board of Regents,

As an alum, I am very disappointed over the current state of affairs at UT Austin. I came to UT as a non-traditional student with big aspirations and UT allowed me to pursue my dreams. In fact, UT changed my life.

The political fallout between Gov. Perry, the chancellor, and appointees that are complicit with this fallout is unacceptable. UT is a world-class school and Bill Powers has been instrumental in UT's success and UT's brand. I urge your group to stop messing with UT and stop messing with President Powers immediately.

Every alum I'm spoken to is outraged over this situation. Regardless of political affiliation, we are furious over this witchhunt and the level of cronyism going on within the UT System.

Stop the witchhunt, stop the insanity, and stop messing with UT Austin and Bill Powers.

The repercussions of your actions will damage more than just the tens of thousands of students, alumni, and faculty. It will damage the reputation of our great school, as well as the pride people like me gained from my experience with UT.

Sincerely,

Jason Post  
Management Information Systems 2013

**From:** [Jeff Prince](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 5:09:52 PM

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Dear Board of Regents,

I'm writing to voice my unequivocal and enthusiastic support for President Powers to remain in his role at the University of Texas. As an alumnus and financial supporter of the University of Texas and a proud Life Member of the Texas Exes, I pay close attention to the activities of my university and I believe that President Powers represents the finest example of leadership and has progressed the university through staunch commitment to the University's ideals in the face of egregious embattlement from those who would diminish the school's reputation, academic standing, and its manifestation of a university of the first class as decreed by the constitution of our state.

Those who oppose him do not represent the wishes of current students, alumni worldwide, the overwhelming majority of the faculty, or the academic community at large, nor do they represent the best opportunity and hope for a continued trajectory of increasing academic excellence, expanding educational opportunities and the betterment of society.

I implore you members of the Board to exercise your duty to the University of Texas and retain the leadership of President Powers.

I write this with great appreciation for your consideration and service.  
Yours truly and Hook 'em Horns,

Jeff Prince  
BA '98

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** University of Texas President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:32:38 AM

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As a Texas taxpayer, voter, alumnus, and modest donor to the university I urge you to please keep Bill Powers as president of the University of Texas at the very least long enough to let him leave on his own terms. This is not the kind of scandal the university needs right now.

Cordially,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jenny Kokai](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** in support of President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:49:16 PM

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Dear Board of Regents and Chairman Paul Foster,

I am writing in support of President Powers and against the recent news that he is being forced to resign or fired. The University of Texas at Austin, under the direction of President Powers, is a world class institution. The faculty, students, and alumni (myself included) are unanimous in support of him. I was accepted to many doctoral programs, but I chose to attend UT-Austin because of the quality of the faculty and the resources available to me. These were things that unquestionably Powers helped accomplish. The news that reaches alumni about the Board of Regents continues to be poor: emphasizing cheapness of degree over quality, denigrating non-science fields because they are not grant sponsored, wasting time and energy harassing the University to no end.

As an alum, it has become very clear that you are not interested in the quality of education that students receive at the University of Texas, nor are you interested in the intellectual good done by the scholars who work there. I am not clear what you are interested in, and your reticence to be publicly honest, and tactics like pulling this over the summer on a holiday weekend, only add to the impression that this is about politics plain and simple. Beyond the effect of this on the institution for current and future students, I am concerned that your actions will make my degree meaningless and laughable to the rest of the country, if it has not already. I chose UT-Austin over elite private schools, and I am beginning to be sorry about that. I hope that the people I was fortunate enough to study with will carry more sway to those evaluating my CV than the name of the institution and the actions of the regents.

In addition, I have to take issue with the smearing of Dr. Kedra Ishop and the Admissions Department. I worked for Admissions scoring application essays during my time at UT to help support my graduate education. While this hardly made me privy to the inner workings, I found Ishop to be dedicated to her job, committed to UT-Austin students, and we went through careful training that made us clear about state admission policies. In my experience, essays were evaluated solely on the strength of the applicants' writing and I cannot imagine this did not extend to the whole of the applications. I may not know the whole story, but then nobody does because of your underhanded actions. Whatever the accusations may be, it is terrible to entangle people's names without clear evidence of wrong doing.

Nothing good will come of firing President Powers, and if you undertake this action it will profoundly impact the university in negative ways. I urge you to listen to the University community and rethink your actions.

Dr. Jenny Kokai, 2008 Graduate

**From:** [Jessica LaBerge](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers' Requested Resignation or Forced Termination  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 1:44:52 PM

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Regents,

I was disappointed to learn this weekend that Chancellor Cigarroa had given President Powers an ultimatum to resign by October, or to be fired at the July 10th meeting of the University of Texas Board of Regents. As a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, I believe that I am a testament to the great work President Powers has done for our University.

Not only is President Powers close to completing a \$3 Billion Capital Campaign for UT Austin (He received \$453 Million in gifts and pledges in 2013 alone), but he has also overseen the dramatic growth in top ranked programs at the UT Austin. President Powers has worked constantly these past 8 years with the best of interest of UT Austin at heart.

For the past year I have watched as story after story was written about the uncertainty of President Power's future at UT Austin. This negative press has done a great disservice to the reputation of UT Austin. I am concerned not only about the timing of this forced resignation, but also about the complete disregard for members of the legislature that specifically asked that President Powers not be fired or forced to resign for the foreseeable future.

With Chancellor Cigarroa's own departure from the Board of Regents coming, I am extremely concerned about the disadvantage that will be done to UT Austin should President Powers be forced to leave. The 2015 Legislative Session will begin in January, and preventing President Powers from representing UT Austin would do irrevocable harm. It would be impossible to find a suitable replacement who could lead UT Austin through the 2015 Legislative Session as successfully as President Powers has in the past 8 years. I also wonder what suitable University President would want the job as President of UT Austin when that job is so under attack.

I hope that the Board of Regents can make the decision that is best for UT Austin and its students by allowing President Powers to stay.

Regards,  
Jessica LaBerge  
Texas Ex 2012



**From:** [jfcook@utexas.edu](mailto:jfcook@utexas.edu)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In support of Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:42:50 PM

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My letter to the UT System Chancellor ([chancellor@utsystem.edu](mailto:chancellor@utsystem.edu))

cc: UT Board of Regents

I can't believe I need to write to you about this matter again - on Independence Day - regarding the seemingly endless, mind numbing scrutiny of President Bill Powers and his work leading one of the preeminent universities in the USA.

For three years, UT Austin has been the subject of a politically motivated campaign to attack and discredit our President, Bill Powers. During his tenure, President Powers has advanced UT Austin in remarkable ways including reforming our core curriculum, creating the first medical school at a tier one university in over 50 years, and successfully leading a three billion dollar capital campaign. President Powers was also elected by fellow university presidents to be Chairman of the Association of American Universities, a group of the 61 leading universities in the nation, despite leading UT Austin to such significant accomplishments, being recognized as a national leader in higher education, and enjoying strong support from students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

As a physician, you took an oath which include a phrase "primum non nocere". At this time it's incumbent on you to stand up to the critics, look at the progress achieved through President Powers' leadership, and "first, do no harm" to our great university of the first class.

I have been a lifelong supporter of UT-Austin, including my attendance and graduation. I've continued my support in service and significant financial gifts. I will certainly revisit any commitments I've made to UT-Austin if this unwarranted campaign against President Powers continues.

It's time for you to stand up to the obvious politically motivated campaign to remove a man who has accomplished more in his tenure than any prior leader of our great University. I hope you have that courage, integrity, and independence.

For Texas, I will.

James Cook, Texas Exes Life Member

Sent from Windows Mail

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:33:23 PM

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Dear Board Members,

Please ensure that no personnel decisions be made at the university during active investigations. Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any “adverse employment action” during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall. I urge you to adhere to this same guidance regarding Bill Powers. Regardless of your personal thoughts on Mr. Powers and any pressure that you may feel from outside sources, you must follow the guidelines set forth in order to uphold the integrity of law. Your smart decisions today will ensure a law-abiding reputation for yourselves and the University in the future.

Thank you!

Jill Jennings

**From:** [Jim Pritchard](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Employment of William C. Powers, Jr., as President of The University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:28:02 PM

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Chairman Paul Foster,

As a UT alumni, I am writing to express my concern over the news of Bill Powers' potential firing from The University of Texas.

I firmly believe a forced resignation or firing would be immensely detrimental to UT. There is no doubt that this termination without any valid explanation will only lead to more turmoil for the faculty, students, and alumni, and cause severe damage to the university's reputation. It will also set a very dangerous precedent and will ruin the potential to recruit world-class teachers, researchers, students, and ultimately a successor. It is for these reasons that I strongly object Bill Powers' dismissal from The University of Texas. I hope that you will act in the best interest of the university and vote against Bill Powers' removal.

Thank you,

Jim Pritchard

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[www.pritchardassociates.com](http://www.pritchardassociates.com)

**From:** [Joan Hataway](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:50:43 PM

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The firing of President Powers would be a disaster of epic proportions at this time. This decision is obviously a desire of Governor Perry who would like to discredit the University of Texas, the Flagship University of Texas. Being the "good aggie" the Governor has always been jealous of the University of Texas. In my opinion, Warren Hall was placed on the Board of Regents to be the hatchet man for the Governor.

I am an 87 year old veteran of WWII, a Petroleum Engineering graduate, BSPE 1955. I will do whatever is necessary to keep Bill Powers as President.

Bill Hataway

**From:** [Joe Freeman](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:38:59 AM


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I support firing Powers.

Sincerely,

Joe Freeman

UT Class of 71

Joe C. Freeman, Architect Em.  
204 Skyline Drive  
West Lake Hills, TX 78746  
512-327-7323 office  
512-970-0423 cell  


**From:** [Joe Monaco](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Lay off Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:47:50 PM

---

The Man has done loads of good for this University, can you not see it?

Joe Monaco  


**From:** [Joel Robuck](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** UT Austin President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 3:38:26 PM

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7.9.14

The UT System Board of Regents,

Speaking as a proud alum of UT Austin, I encourage you all to negotiate an agreement with Bill Powers to extend his current position until the end of the spring 2015 school term.

Abruptly forcing him to resign or fire him now would tarnish the superb reputation of UT Austin and the UT System. Bill has performed at a high level for UT Austin.

Thank you for your time.

**Joel H. Robuck**  
**BBA 1964**  
**MBA 1965**

**Berkshire Inc.**  
**Office**        **214.361.7830**  
**Cell**         **214.244.0042**  
**Email**        



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [John Alvarez](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:37:02 AM

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As a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, I would like to express my extreme displeasure with the way the Board of Regents and Chancellor Cigarroa have gone about trying to remove President Powers from his office. Certainly the timing and tactics that have come to light put the Board and Chancellor's office in the position of looking very bad and damages the University System reputation as a whole.

I am especially troubled that Chacellor Cigarroa's move is in direct opposition to the instructions given by the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations stating that the University System not make any "adverse employment action" during the investigation into Regent Hill.

I would hope that the Board of Regents and the Chancellor's office would stop damaging the University, the University System, and the national reputation of both with this course of action.

Regards,

John Alvarez  
[j.alvarez@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:j.alvarez@alumni.utexas.net)

**From:** [John Black](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor](#); [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us); [naomi.gonzalez@house.state.tx.us](mailto:naomi.gonzalez@house.state.tx.us); [eric.johnson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:eric.johnson@house.state.tx.us); [Lyle.Larson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Lyle.Larson@house.state.tx.us); [Trey.Martinez.Fischer@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Trey.Martinez.Fischer@house.state.tx.us); [charles.perry@house.state.tx.us](mailto:charles.perry@house.state.tx.us); [four.price@house.state.tx.us](mailto:four.price@house.state.tx.us); [John Black](#)  
**Subject:** The firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:24:43 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I spent eight years at the University of Texas. Undergrad. Law School. And the LBJ School. As a student, I was president of the student body, Abbot of the Friar Society, a Silver Spur, and more.

Now I am a lawyer. I own my own law firm, live in Houston, belong to River Oaks Country Club, and know some of the characters embroiled in this incredibly embarrassing fiasco, that now threatens to do lasting damage to our University's image.

**The firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT.** It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, his presidency of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the Dell Medical School.

To date, there has been no reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus. **Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university.** Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.

The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

I hope folks see beyond politics to do what is best for The University of Texas and the State.

The Eyes of Texas are upon you.

John Scott Black

**From:** [John Eakin](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Keep President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 4:10:52 AM

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Chairman Foster,

Please do not allow the firing of President Powers. Our university needs his continued leadership. His excellent work to enhance The University's reputation as one of the best academic institutions in the world has earned him the right to complete his term as President. He has stood up for our university when Gov. Perry wants to turn it into a degree mill. President Powers is protecting our university and promoting our high standards. He should be allowed to continue his work as President. His firing, especially during his tenure as Chairman of the AAU, will be an enormous embarrassment to our university. Please do not let that happen.

Respectfully,  
John Eakin, M.D.  
Texas Ex, B.S. '07

**From:** [John F. Yeaman](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:10:39 PM

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Bill Powers has not been an effective manager according to what I've been told by people doing the daily hard work on campus -- not professors and others leading classes and labs.


The President must be someone who assures that people doing the essential work to keep UT effective feel they are supported.

John F. Yeaman, MSSW '72

**From:** [John Jammal](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 5:19:51 PM

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University of Texas system Regents, please do not put our University at a disadvantage. We all have worked hard to elevate the University to the position it currently holds and look forward to it's continued success in achieving "A University of the First Class". President Powers has my and my family's full support to continue to lead our University. Please do not succumb to the misconceived notion that removing President Powers will be beneficial to the University of Texas. We feel it will be tremendously detrimental if he is removed at this time. Thank you for hearing the voice of The University.

John G. Jammal  
Parts and Service Director  
West Loop Mitsubishi  
7007 NW Loop 410  
San Antonio, Texas 78238  
(210) 509-3777  


**From:** [John Luper](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:49:25 PM

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I am a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, BSME '76. I served in the US Air Force and as a pilot for Delta Air Lines. The level of interference by the current governor, his appointees, and outside purveyors of "education reform" causes me great concern.

I wholly support President Powers and I would ask you to support his continued employment with The University.

I have always been proud of The University and appreciate its contribution to my preparation for success in life. My wife and I sent one of our two children there (he graduated in May). Now, however, I am embarrassed by the meddling at the hands of reactionary ideologues.

I would like to include a quote from a letter from Hunter R. Rawlings III, president of the Association of American Universities, who sent the following to The Chronicle of Higher Education:

"I thought the State of Texas had in the past two years reached the outer limit of political intrusion into academic institutions, but apparently not. Now a board appointed by a lame-duck governor, and, astonishingly, a lame-duck chancellor, are threatening to oust a highly accomplished and popular president of Texas' flagship university, and a national leader in higher education. ... Believe me, faculty members and researchers and graduate students across the country know what is transpiring in Texas: the complete politicization of higher education. This latest fiasco makes a bad situation much worse."

**From:** [JOHN NEAL](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Please treat Bill Powers fairly  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 7:32:08 PM

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To: Paul Foster, Chairman of the Board of Regents

From: John Neal, Ph.D., Lewisville, Texas

Date: July 7, 2014

I have a master's degree from UT Austin, and I am a Lifetime Member of Texas Exes.

I am asking you to please reconsider the abrupt and unfair ultimatum reportedly given to President Bill Powers last week -- to resign or be fired -- and, instead, let him continue the excellent work he is doing.

Powers is a highly competent administrator and a true intellectual, respected across the country for his contributions to higher education.

As *Inside Higher Ed*, an online publication, pointed out today: "Bill Powers, president of the University of Texas at Austin, enjoys the backing of students, faculty and alumni leaders. He has been held in high regard by university leaders nationally, serving as chair of the board of the Association of American Universities."

The sudden dismissal of Powers would damage the University of Texas as well as the image of the state of Texas. Please see that he is treated fairly.

**From:** [John Stansbury](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:22:23 AM

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Regents,

Please do not let The University continue to become a laughingstock in higher education. The actions against President Powers cheapen the value of our degrees.

Thank you,

John Stansbury

512-633-8356

- **The firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT.** It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, his presidency of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the Dell Medical School.
- **The Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers.** Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.
- **Why has this decision been made and why *now*?** To date, the Chancellor has not given a specific reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum over a holiday break, when the majority of students and faculty were not on campus. The System's actions must be transparent and politics should be set aside.
- **Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university.** Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.
- **President Powers is willing to work with the System.** The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next legislative session.



**From:** [Jon & Lou Bauman](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** BILL POWERS  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:21:14 PM

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AFTER RUNNING UP A STELER RECORD AS PRESIDENT OF UT AUSTIN, IT WOULD BE A TRAVESTY TO FIRE BILL POWERS FOR POLITICAL REASONS. YOU WOULD EMBARRASS YOURSELVES AND YOUR STATE, AND YOU WOULD SEVERLY DAMAGE UT.  
JON BAUMAN '60 AND 61'

**From:** [Josh Friedlander](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Let Bill Powers Stay!  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:31:00 PM

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Dear Regents,

As a graduate of the University of Texas I am writing this e-mail to urge you to keep Bill Powers! If you vote to fire Bill Powers you will all harm your reputation from now until the end of time. People are not going to forget it.

Hook' Em,  
Josh Friedlander

**From:** [Josiah M. Daniel, III](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:31:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [J.&S. Daniel - ltr to Chancellor Cigarroa re Bill Powers \(7-7-14\).pdf](#)

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Copy of our letter to Chancellor Cigarroa is attached.

Josiah and Susan Daniel  
Dallas

--

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." -George Santayana, The Life of Reason, vol. 1 at 284 (NY: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1920).

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT POWERS FIASCO  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 3:42:08 PM

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For God's sake please come to your senses and stop acting like a bunch of political teenagers. Settle down and realize the ramifications of a hasty political act.....look back at the previous distinguished members of the board and act accordingly. We have enough misguided politicians representing Texas. We deserve better. Joseph Sessions class of 1955.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:36:55 PM

---

Please reconsider this decision!! It will have devastating consequences for the University of Texas!!!!  
Judy Tate

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Karen Marsales](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:59:59 PM

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Board of Regents,

As a former graduate and huge Longhorn Sports fan, I'm troubled by the news of a forced resignation for Bill Powers. I think that Bill Powers has done an excellent job at the University of Texas and want to continue to see him lead into the future. I do not want to see the removal of a president who has been so successful at furthering UT's mission.

A person should not be forced to resign for voicing disagreement with Board decisions. Please pay attention to the wishes of those who love this school and try to avoid the politicians who have a different agenda. Please reconsider your current actions and allow Powers to remain in his role.

Thanks for your service,

Karen Toner  
UT  
1999

**From:** [Karl Rathjen](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:29:11 PM

---

Dear Chairman Foster and UT Regents

Thank you for your service to our State and Universities. I am grateful for your leadership - particularly during turbulent times.

I am writing to express my support for President Powers and encourage you to carefully consider his "entire body of work" as well as the vital importance a true "Tier One" University has for our future.

In my opinion, his firing or forced resignation will have significant adverse impact on UT's academic mission for years.

Thanks for your consideration and efforts on behalf of the UT system.

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Kathi Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Cc:** [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us); [dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us)  
**Subject:** Support for Pres. Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:02:12 PM

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As a graduate of UT-Austin and a Life Member of Texas Exes, I keep up on what is happening there and am very unhappy with the shenanigans that have been going on against President Bill Powers. It is my understanding that the Legislature told the Board of Regents that they shouldn't fire Pres. Powers, and I think that is good advice.

I have been dismayed, time and again, with the people Rick Perry has appointed to the Board of Regents. It makes one almost believe he's trying to make UT a "university of the 2nd class" as opposed to 1st class. Given that UT **is** a public university, the Lege indeed has every right to step into the middle of this and sort it out. I would suggest that you act like adults and quite fighting.

Kathi Thomas  
BM 1976

"Always do what is right, regardless of whether it is popular."

President John F. Kennedy - *Profiles in Courage*



**From:** [Kathy](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Powers, William - UT Austin](#)  
**Subject:** OUTRAGED ALUMNUS CALLS FOR REGENTS' RESIGNATION  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 12:23:59 PM

---

Retain Bill Powers - dismiss regents...  
K.W. Bryson  
UTAustin graduate 1983

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:48:09 AM

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Chairman Foster:

We are a UT family. My two sons represent the 6th generation of the Dowdy family to graduate from the University of Texas. We take great pride in the reputation for excellence that UT Austin has earned. We ask that you not tarnish that reputation by firing President Bill Powers. It would be a travesty.  
Kathleen (Kathy) Butler Dowdy "78

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** tenure of Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 1:52:05 PM

---

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

I understand that this email is unlikely to change your position on the matter of the presidential tenure of Bill Powers, but I wanted to add my voice to those calling for his continuation in that office.

I am a native of Texas and an alumnus of the University of Texas at Austin (business and liberal arts colleges), and I have worked as a faculty member in higher education for nearly two decades. I have considered job offers from the University of Texas (during which time I got to know then-Dean Powers), and I would certainly consider a position at Texas again in the future. I have donated a small amount of money to the University of Texas, and I am actively considering donating more in the future. When I was thinking about colleges in the mid-1980s, I chose Texas over a number of other options (including Rice) because of its diverse and high-quality offerings as an elite research university.

The simple fact of the matter is that I consider the recent activities of the Regents as very damaging to the University. I regret that I am now glad that I did not accept an offer there given the current political climate surrounding the institution. If Powers were to be forced out, I would consider it a significant blow to the University. His removal would dramatically reduce the likelihood that I would pursue a job there in the future or donate to any public institution in the state. Given the current climate, I doubt I would have chosen to attend the University of Texas as an undergraduate, and I know that faculty colleagues currently on the Austin campus are listening to outside offers at more stable institutions. I would hesitate to advise my graduate students to accept a job there, given other options.

I regret that we have come to this point. I hope that the current conflict can be quickly resolved without further damage to the reputation of the University, which once had the aspiration of being world-class. I consider Powers' continued tenure to be essential to process of preserving the institution about which I care very much. I understand that many of the Regents have differences with the president over important issues associated with the future of the University. I have my own thoughts about those issues, but I hope that reasonable minds can continue to deliberate on the best path forward without the need for such drastic, ill-timed, and ill-advised actions as the proposed removal of the president.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kelly and Carol Street](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:14:47 PM

---

Dear Chairman Foster and Board of Regents Members,  
I am writing in regards to the news that President Bill Powers has been asked to resign. I am completely flummoxed by this turn of events.

Under President Powers, donations to The University have flowed in and the overall budget has been reduced. He is held in high regard by faculty, students and alumni. If he was not doing a good job, one or more of these groups would be dissatisfied. Mr. Powers also is President of the Association of American Universities, a prestigious position that I am sure he wouldn't have if he was not held in high regard by his peers.

To make matters worse, no reason is given for this ultimatum. The chancellor himself has resigned and will be gone shortly, so why is he doing this on his way out?

The whole thing smacks of nothing but politics and this is VERY detrimental to The University. Previously, the Board of Regents was not in favor of removing Mr. Powers, now suddenly there is an about-face. Please stand against politically motivated bullying of the leadership of The University of Texas.

Thank you and Hook 'em,

Kelly Street  
BS '75

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers and UT  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:36:29 PM

---

Chairman Foster,

I am a UT Law School Alum. My wife graduated from UT's undergraduate program and my daughter is about to enter her last year of Law School at UT. In addition, we have set up a small endowment at UT. Needless to say, we are big supporters of the University and care greatly about the UT.

Although I actually know Bill Powers from my time at UT (or I should say I knew him, as it's been more than 3 decades since I graduated), this email is not to take a position on whether or not he should be fired. I trust that the Regents know a lot of information that is not generally available to the public and I won't second-guess your decisions. My purpose in writing this email is to request that, whatever actions you take, you consider the long-term interests of UT and make your decision with those interests in mind. As you undoubtedly know, replacing any president of a major university is a huge decision, and numerous factors must be considered.

Among other matters, it seems that President Powers' position with the AAU can be used to the benefit of UT. Unless you believe that President Powers is out to harm UT (which I would seriously doubt is the situation), there is no compelling reason to relieve him of his duties at a time that could harm UT. Having served on boards of some large institutions, I understand the importance of succession planning. I don't know where you are in the process, but I urge you to carefully consider the effect of a premature release of President Powers. I understand that there have been some personal issues between President Powers and some of the Regents. Please make sure that these issues do not influence the decision, and that you keep the interests of UT at the top of the list when making your final decision.

UT has positively influenced many lives (including mine) in a very positive manner. I'm proud to be a Longhorn. UT will survive and flourish irrespective of your decision, but there is no benefit in having a blackmark on the reputation of this great University. Please help keep UT on the right track, and limit the downside of the change that is going to occur with respect to the

presidency.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** contact info  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:05:10 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Good morning,

I am a UT alumnus (BS 1986, MS 1993, PhD 1997), and I would like to contact Board member Wallace Hall. Could you please forward to me a direct email address for him?

Many thanks,  
Ken

Kenneth R. Kibodeaux, Ph.D.  
Senior Reservoir Engineer  
Shell International E&P Inc., Innovation and R&D Group  
Rock & Fluid Physics Dept. at STC-H (Shell Technology Center - Houston)  
3333 Hwy 6 South, Office M-1066B (Lab N-1106C)  
Houston, Texas, USA 77082  
+1 (281) 544-7970  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Keshav Rajagopalan](#)  
**To:** [Cigarroa, Francisco](#); [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Letter from UT Austin Student Government Leadership, 2005-15  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:38:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [In Support of Bill Powers - 2005-15 UT Austin Student Government Leadership.pdf](#)

---

Dear Chairman Foster, Members of the Board, and Chancellor Cigarroa:

Please find attached a letter from 18 former and current presidents and vice presidents of the UT Austin student body in support of President Bill Powers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keshav Rajagopalan

--

Keshav Rajagopalan

832.724.8207

**From:** [Kim](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Mr Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 7:12:45 PM

---

We have two children that attend The University of Texas at Austin. I am disgusted with the announcement that Mr Bill Powers is being forced out of his position. I am insulted with the lack of information, the press releases that leave you asking questions, the lack of transparency offered to tuition-paying parents, and the threatening manner in which this issue is being handled. It is unfair to leave the Texas Exes, the professors who teach at UT everyday, and the parents totally uninformed. Shame on you all.  
Kim Neuendorff

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kirby Cavin](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 4:31:29 PM

---

Gentlemen,

Let me join with the thousands of other proud graduates of the University of Texas in asking that you do not fire Bill Powers.

President Powers has served the University with distinction, first as a professor then Dean of the Texas Law School, and for the last few years, as President of the University.

Finally, I am urging you to retain President Powers, not just for his talent and qualifications, but also because this action would serve to undermine much of what has been gained in making our University one of the premier public universities in the United States. I can remember when Regent Frank Erwin fired Dean John Silber and as a result of that political purge, the University lost many talented faculty members. Please do not repeat that mistake.

Thank you for your consideration and for the time you spend in shaping the policies that govern The University.

Kirby Cavin

A. Kirby Cavin  
ATLAS HALL & RODRIGUEZ, LLP  
818 Pecan Blvd.  
McAllen, Texas 78501  
<http://www.atlashall.com/>



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**From:** [Kristine Rudolph](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#); [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Stability during fundraising campaigns - a must!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 1:45:49 PM

---

As an alum of The University of Texas at Austin (JD 1998) and as a former university fundraiser, I am alarmed at the instability the "ultimatum" given to President Bill Powers is causing.

He is in the midst of an ambitious campaign, and losing him at this juncture would materially harm the University's fundraising efforts. Moreover, having a vacancy in the President's office would be a hardship for UT-Austin during the next legislative session.

Please consider the stability and long-term future of the University as you cast your votes on Thursday. A departure of June 2015, Powers' counter, makes more sense on every possible level.

Kristine Rudolph  
Author, *The Myth of Jake*



Exploring Wellness at [kristinerudolph.com](http://kristinerudolph.com)  
Twitter: @kristinerudolph

*The Myth of Jake* is available in e-book format at most online booksellers including [Amazon](#).

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Kristopher Yingling](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 7:46:33 PM

---

Dear Chairman Foster,

Please support President Bill Powers and help UT in becoming one of the best universities in the world.

Best,  
Kris

--

**Kristopher Yingling**  
J.D. Candidate | Class of 2016  
University of Pennsylvania Law School  
337.251.5501 | [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:26:00 PM

---

I support Bill Powers and his leadership at University of Texas. Please do not terminate his presidency. Let the Legislative House Committee do its job. Please don't interfere with the process.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Runnells

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Larry L. Shosid](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Regents  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:36:11 PM

---

Don't fire Bill Powers!



Larry L. Shosid | Partner

[REDACTED]  
Tel 214-740-1424 | Fax 214-740-5724 | Mobile  
214-908-3663  
3232 McKinney Ave. Suite 1400 Dallas, Texas  
75204  
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Thank you.



**From:** [Larry L. Shosid](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:35:30 PM

---

Please don't inflict injury upon UT. Show UT and Powers the respect that they deserve.



**Larry L. Shosid** | Partner

[REDACTED]  
Tel 214-740-1424 | Fax 214-740-5724 | Mobile  
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Thank you.

**From:** [Larry Wiltse](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Pres. Powers lynching!  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 5:03:13 PM

---

I find the efforts to remove Pres. Powers to smack of the midnight firing of special prosecutor during the Watergate investigation. Lame duck governor doing all he can to wreck the UT system and reputation! Shame on all who contribute to this travesty! There is nothing transparent about this process!!! UT Exe A.L.Wiltse

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Larry Wiltse](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Pres. Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 4:34:46 PM

---

I find the efforts to remove Pres. Powers to smack of the midnight firing of special prosecutor during the Watergate investigation. Lame duck governor doing all he can to wreck the UT system and reputation! Shame on all who contribute to this travesty! UT Exe A.L.Wiltse  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Lauren Owens](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** We are Watching  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:13:07 AM

---

To the Board of Regents,

I hope that my very brief message is but one of many missives sent to you this week. Over the last three years, it has become increasingly evident that our great University is helmed by a board composed of men and women faithful only to our governor and politicians, and not the students, alumni, faculty and staff, and our true leader on the ground - our President, Bill Powers.

To change course in this manner would be to change course for the wrong direction. Instability within the state's greatest university would be detrimental not just to the University itself, but to all of higher education in Texas. Please allow for a reasoned and fully planned transition of power if that transition is inevitable. Forcing President Powers out to serve only the political interests of the very few will mean an incalculable injustice will be done to all Longhorns and all future Longhorns.

Remember, the eyes of Texas - the University, the people, and the State - are upon you now.

'Til Gabriel blows his horn,

Lauren Marfin  
Class of 2008

**From:** [Leslye Weaver](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:22:20 AM

---

Dear Board of Regents,  
This letter is in support of President Bill Powers and his desire to resign gracefully in 2015. As a loyal UT graduate, I know that President Powers has done so much good for the University and it would be terrible for him to be forced out on Thursday!  
Sincerely,  
Leslye Lucas Weaver  
BA 1973

**From:** [Leticia Acosta](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I Stand with President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:21:57 PM

---

Dear Members of the UT System Board of Regents:

As an alumna of UT Austin and a UT Advocate of the Texas Exes, I completely support the leadership of President Bill Powers. I have witnessed his tenure over the years and believe in what he is accomplishing at our university. He has worked hard to elevate UT to one of the best public universities in the country; he was able to win relief to the top 10% law while still aiming to achieve diversity on this campus; but most importantly, he has worked closely with students and attends countless events throughout the year to support their experience on this campus in hopes of making it the best four years they can have.

As someone who was the first in her family to graduate from college, let alone attend, I found a family on this campus. A family who supported and encouraged students to believe in changing the world. I am so proud to see how many initiatives exist on this campus today, because of President Powers' leadership, to support students to succeed on the Forty Acres and graduate.

I work with these students and they believe in what he stands for and it is disheartening to believe that the BOR is not behind an individual who has given so much to our university throughout his career. There have been incredible accomplishments on this campus over the years because of him, and it's as if they don't matter. The capital campaign is close to reaching \$3 billion, we have a medical school on the horizon, and there has been so much work done to increase graduation rates. I don't understand how this is not enough and why you chose not to support him.

Please reconsider this path you are on to destroy our university, because that is what you are doing by firing Bill Powers. I have never been ashamed to be part of the UT System, but these past few years have just been appalling. At tomorrow's board meeting, please vote to keep Bill Powers as president with a departure after the 2015 legislative session. To go into a session without a leader to seek appropriations and fight for the best interest of the university, is irresponsible. You were appointed to do what is right for our universities within the system. Stand with Bill Powers tomorrow.

Sincerely,  
Leticia G. Acosta, BA '02  
Life Member, Texas Exes  
UT Advocate  
Student Outreach Chair, Texas Exes Hispanic Alumni Network  
Member, Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association

**From:** [Leventhal, Seth](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 1:03:13 PM

---

As an alumnus of the University of Texas, I wanted to express my support for Bill Powers. I find it unconscionable that the Chancellor and the Board will allow petty politics to make a baseless personnel decision.

Further, Mr. Perry and Mr. Sandefer's ideas for higher education, specifically at the University of Texas at Austin, go against the wishes of the alumni base and the citizens of the State of Texas. In my position, I have the opportunity to interview candidates from various institutions around the state and consistently find UT's students to be at the top.

There are numerous public institutions in the state that are not highly ranked and not producing top talent. To the extent both Mr. Perry and Mr. Sandefer are looking for a testing ground for their theories on higher education, they can apply those theories to lesser institutions. If their ideas work, the market will reflect it and those institutions will have the opportunity to rise to the level of the University of Texas at Austin.

The fact that Mr. Perry so publically claims to represent the free market conservative values of the citizens of this state while trying to level the playing field across its institutions of higher learning is nearly as upsetting as his witch hunt against a good man and good president.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss

Thanks,

Seth

Seth Leventhal

Senior Manager | UHY Advisors FLVS, Inc.

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**From:** [Lewis, Randolph R](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I stand by President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:23:51 PM

---

Dear Chairman Paul Foster

Like many of my friends, I am deeply disappointed that Governor Perry is playing politics with UT-Austin's leadership.

As an alum and current faculty member, I stand by President Powers, who has done far more for higher education in this state than the current governor.

If Mr Perry would like to see "Big Gov't" in action, meddling in the lives of ordinary hard-working Texans, he can look in the mirror. Texas deserves better.

Sincerely,

Randolph Lewis  
Professor  
American Studies Dept.  
UT-Austin

**From:** [Lila Moorner](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:21:41 AM

---

As a UT graduate, I am embarrassed by the actions which have been taken in this non transparent situation. Airing of dirty laundry on a national scale is unbecoming of a leader of this university.

Lila Walters Moorner  
U T Class of 1964

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Linda Campbell](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Regents VS President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:38:52 AM

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I am so distressed that you seem to be focusing on "reigning in & dumping" UT's President Powers when you took no action to reign in & dump Wallace Hall who has been the most divisive & disruptive regent ever! You all seem intent on playing politics with an great educational institution. I am most disappointed in your political reign. Seems you are out to ruin The University of Texas at Austin. I am totally ashamed of "your service". If you can't be positive and promote the University I suggest you withdraw like gentlemen. You do have a bully pulpit for policy but not the right to be bullies.

The University Nation is watching you and are displeased with your deportment and leadership. Just talk to some alumni. I have had so many relatives who have attended this great university and watched it grow and prosper through the years. Alumni are my father, 2 uncles, my husband, our sons, and many cousins. We are ashamed and angered by the way this board has functioned for a few years now. Outrageous. Time for many changes on the Board of Regents.

Sincerely  
Linda Campbell  
Austin TX

**From:** [Lisa Curry](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 2:45:12 PM

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Dear Board of Regents,

I am a 1982 graduate of The University of Texas. I have always been proud to be associated with UT and trusted the decisions of the BOR. The recent dealings with dismissing President Powers is concerning to me and everyone I personally know in the Longhorn Nation. Why is there such divisiveness among the BOR? Since the BOR is my voice for UT, make it known that I wholeheartedly support President Powers to remain in his position at UT. In my adult life there has not been a better president who has done more for UT than Bill Powers.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Curry

--

Lisa Curry  
Fourth Grade Teacher  
The Kinkaid School

**From:** [Lisa Harris](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** The University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 1:39:25 PM

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Dear Regents,

I am very concerned by reports that President Powers is likely to be removed from office soon. Your charge is to work in the interest of the University of Texas System and its universities. If you remove a University president from office for political reasons less than a year before the next governor is elected you are not working in the interest of either the University of Texas system or the UT-Austin. No new president that a conscientious board would want to hire to run a university of its size and caliber would consider leaving his or her current post for UT-Austin until after the next governor has taken office and made his or her appointments to the Board of Regents, and for the UT-Austin to operate under an acting president for an extended period of time would not be good for the institution. Please act responsibly. Thank you.

Lisa Harris  
University of Texas at Austin alum

**From:** [Lisa Moore](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Do Not Fire President Powers  
**Date:** Saturday, July 05, 2014 3:19:45 PM

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To the Board of Regents of the University of Texas at Austin:

I was horrified to read that Dr. Francisco Cigarroa demanded President Powers' resignation. This summary and disrespectful move is especially egregious taking place as it did, on the national holiday of July 4. It could not be clearer that the authors of this undignified attempt to push Powers out were hoping to do so out of the public spotlight. This in turn suggests that they know how dishonest and unwarranted their efforts are, and are afraid to expose them to the light of day.

Whenever President Powers decides to retire from his position, he deserves a timely and dignified process that respects his enormous contributions to UT Austin and to American higher education. Please refrain from dumping him overboard behind our backs.

Thank you for your attention.

All best,  
Lisa Moore

--

Lisa L. Moore  
Interim Director  
The Center for Women's and Gender Studies  
Professor  
Department of English  
The University of Texas at Austin

**From:** [Luis Cardenas](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:37:22 PM

---

Dear Board Members,

I would like to express my support for President Bill Powers and dissatisfaction with the manner in which any transition is being effectuated and how politics are dictating how the University of Texas is being run.

Thanks

Luis M. Cardenas

Escobedo, Tippit & Cardenas, L.L.P.

Compass Bank Tower

3900 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 950

McAllen, Texas 78501

Ph: 956-618-3357

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**From:** [Luke Kellogg](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Retain Bill Pwers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 7:05:15 AM

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As a UT alumni I want to voice my opinion that it would be a complete mistake to ask or cause Bill Powers to resign. Thank you— Luke C. Kellogg class of 1986



**From:** [Lynn Watkins](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Saturday, July 05, 2014 9:40:57 PM

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Dear Regents,

I am writing you to express my extreme disappointment with the current actions regarding the threatened termination of President Bill Powers. As a graduate of the University of Texas, Class of 1970, and as a businessman who has operated a small business for over forty years I can tell you that I believe that the quality of education that the University historically and currently delivers is of critical importance to the future of our state. I am concerned that your actions are harmful and misguided.

I firmly believe that the efforts to change the way that the University operates by attempting to minimize, if not severely curtail, the value of research will ultimately severely harm the University and the state. We have sufficient community colleges, technical colleges and various universities that are available to fulfill the needs for education without destroying one of the premier universities in the state, in the country and in the world. Innovation and experimentation is the life blood of technological and intellectual advancement. We need world class professors that will continue to enable Texas to lead the way in these endeavors.

In order to achieve this goal we have to have a President of the University and administrators that attract the top professors and the top students. If you persist in undermining the operation of the University the brain drain that we will suffer will haunt us for years to come. I plead with you to reconsider your ill conceived efforts to fire President Powers and focus on the needs of the state in the coming years.

Sincerely,  
Lynn B. Watkins

**From:** [M.E. Cook](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Support For Presient Bill Powers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 8:00:07 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I ask the Regents as Board Members of the UT System to support President Bill Powers in his role as President of UT Austin. I have continually witnessed the incredible challenge he extends to donors, students, and faculty to do more and deliver more all for the greater benefit of learning and research at UT Austin.

In addition, I have had personal experience with two of my own children who currently attend UT Austin. They have benefitted tremendously from current hard working faculty (not TA's or as online learning instructors) with whom they have had personal relationships. These faculty members are making a difference in their lives while enrolled at UT Austin.

As a Texas Parent Advisory Board member of three years, I work hard to share with thousands of parents the benefit of UT Austin as it is today. I ask you to please consider the impact our UT Austin President has had on the lives of the students, donors and faculty- all of whom have collectively helped UT Austin rise to Excellence.

M.E. Cook

	<p><b>M.E. COOK</b> BROKER®, CLHMS, CRS, CCIM 512.633.8042 <a href="http://www.beecaverealty.com">www.beecaverealty.com</a></p>
	
<p><b>kw.</b> LUXURY HOMES <small>ELLER WILLIAMS REALTY</small></p>	

**From:** [Maria Savera](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** PLEASE Keep Bill Powers!  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:38:30 PM

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Board of Regents,

I ask you to listen to the faculty, students, and alumni who all support UT President, Bill Powers.

Please do what is right for The University of Texas, the state of Texas and the citizens of Texas by allowing President Powers serve out his term for the 2014-2015 school year. Don't mess with Texas!

Maria Savera  
UT Grad-1987  
Parent of UT student

**From:** [Marion Hagler](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:55:19 AM

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Greetings:

Some of the recent actions regarding President Powers look childish and seem to disregard the best interests of the University and its community. If you have identified problems with him, please resolve them carefully and deliberately. Hasty action puts the University in jeopardy.

Marion Hagler  
6548 43rd Street Apt. 3402  
Lubbock, TX 79407-1964

Email: [REDACTED]  
Cel: 806 392 4649

**From:** [Marisa Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Retain President Bill Powers!  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:24:43 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster,

I am emailing you to voice my strong support for Bill Powers and ask that the Board of Regents retain him as the President of the University of Texas at Austin. President Powers has advanced our university in many ways. Some of his accomplishments include, but are not limited to, reforming our core curriculum, creating the first medical school at a tier one university in over 50 years, and successfully leading a **\$3 billion** capital campaign. President Powers was also elected by fellow university presidents to be Chairman of the Association of American Universities, a group of the 61 leading universities in the nation – truly a testament to what a good president he is. Furthermore, President Powers is strongly supported by faculty, staff, alumni, and students. I am an alumna, a staff member, and the parent of two UT students – and I vote. Please stop the politics and focus on the institution and education.

Respectfully,

Marisa Schmidt



Marisa Lopreato Schmidt  
571.218.5761  
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/marisaschmidt>

**From:** [Mark Brown](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In support of Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:01:46 AM


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I am a 1983 graduate of the McCombs School of Business and I support Bill Powers.

I cannot speak as an authority on all the facts but my impression is that his list of accomplishments more than offsets the suspect reasons put forth as justification for his dismissal.

Beyond that, in the world where powerful people do important things, men and women of accomplishment should be, and generally are, given the benefit of the doubt regarding how and when they wish to exit absent some true scandal. I don't like what I have seen in this matter and it has already brought discredit to the University and all involved.

Thank you for offering the opportunity for proud alumni of the University to be heard.

Mark A. Brown  
General Counsel/Principal  
Gofen and Glossberg, L.L.C.  
455 Cityfront Plaza, Suite 3000  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-832-1534  


**From:** [Mark Mosley](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:23:17 PM

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**From:** [Mark S Matson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Powers situation  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:51:52 AM

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To Whom It May Concern -

Obviously, as an alumni with no special connections within the university organization, I have no specific information as to Bill Powers' performance as President of UT – just what I read in the papers. However, I am extremely disappointed in the performance of our Board of Regents. Even if President Powers is worthy of firing, the way that this entire situation is being handled reeks of childishness, pettiness, and a lack of accountability and oversight.

Let's fire Powers while the Hall investigation is still very much ongoing? Ridiculous.

Let's let Cigarroa be the hatchet man, right before he leaves his post? Gutless.

Let's force out Powers right before the Campaign for Texas is completed? Poor form.

Again, this email is not intended as a defense of President Powers. Based on what I DO know, I'm tempted to defend him, but I also know that I don't have all relevant information. This email IS intended to tell the Board of Regents to man up and do your jobs. The kind of stuff we're seeing is covered in Management 101.

I love our football team, and enjoy when they are performing well, but I always tell people that I'm happy with a .500 team that doesn't embarrass our university with scandal, devaluing my diploma. The Board is currently heading down that path. Again – man up.

Mark Matson

BSEE '83



**From:** [Martha Jacob](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 8:36:23 AM

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Chairman Foster and the Board of Regents,

I request that Bill Powers remain as President of the University of Texas at Austin. Doing otherwise directly violates the instructions and mandate from the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations - not exactly the example you want to set for college students at UT or any other university.

My husband graduated from UT; I graduated from UT; and my daughter graduated from UT and is currently in the graduate program at UT. We want UT to remain a world-renowned university attracting students from around the United States and the world. Just consider the HUGE number of students who apply for admission to UT.

Finally, do you really want to be known for trying to destroy the University of Texas? For your legacy to be less than the honorable?

Martha Jacob

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President William Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:18:37 PM

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Chairman Foster and Regents,

The reports that President Powers may be removed from office by October are disheartening and frankly shocking.

President Powers has been a great and effective leader for UT Austin as has Chancellor Cigarroa on behalf of the System. I have seen and experienced these facts personally during 8 years as a UT Austin volunteer. I have put my own energy, time and resources into UT Austin programs believing strongly in the direction of UT Austin under Bill Powers and the overall system under the Chancellor.

I cannot believe that after all of the political turmoil and controversy to which President Powers has been subjected that there is any substantive basis to believe he is not an outstanding leader for UT Austin. Thus, the accepted view that this controversy was manufactured by outside political interest - is likely to prevail permanently.

I am greatly concerned about the damage that any such action will have to our great University and the students, faculty, alumni, friends and the University's overall image.

Further, we should all be concerned about the backlash any such action is going to cause. This is a gathering storm that it will adversely effect UT for years to come.

Respectfully, I implore you to use reason, moderation and take the larger view of what has been accomplished and what can be accomplished in the future as we move forward together without the rancor that has diminished us in the past. President Powers should be allowed to serve out his term with the grace and respect he has earned from all of us.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
UT Austin Volunteer and Donor.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Martin Kevorkian](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** requesting your support for President Powers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 11:59:39 PM

---

Dear Board of Regents,

President Powers has, through faithful leadership and advocacy for the value of higher education, earned the full support of the faculty and students at the University of Texas at Austin. I hope that you will act in a manner that reflects the importance of the respect that President Powers has earned.

Action against President Powers would harm both the morale of the campus and the reputation of the university.

Thank you for your consideration,

Martin Kevorkian

Associate Professor and Associate Chair, English

**From:** [Martin Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Powers must stay!  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:49:51 AM

---

Bill Powers is and has been a great president. He must stay.

Martin Stewart  
UT Law 1980

**From:** [Mary Jane Taegel](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding UT...  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:44:29 AM

---

Dear Chairman Foster,

I am writing to encourage you to put an end to the disgraceful conflict between the UT Board of Regents and President Powers.

Speaking as an educator, I can assure you that businessmen and their insistences on business models do not have sufficient understanding of educational needs, practices, goals or policies. How can such tunnel vision make UT a better place? It cannot.

Please end this outrage!

Sincerely,  
Mary Jane Taegel (UT, '63)

**From:** [Mary Morgan](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers - The Eyes of Texas Are Watching  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 8:00:21 AM

---

Dear Board of Regents,

If you look at the mission of any president of a major public university it would have to be to maintain or extend the stature of the university and insure it's fiscal viability for the future. On both vectors, Mr. Powers has achieved and exceeded those for the University of Texas.

I have zero 'dog in this hunt': I didn't graduate from UT and my children have already graduated (from other universities). What I do have is pride in the University of Texas for its stature and respect as a leading university in the world.

I have been truly sickened reading the reports of the ongoing, persistent, dogged witch hunt of Bill Powers. All I can make of it is that it has Rick Perry's hands all over it. From hiring his crony Rick O'Donnell with his junk science views (and at a high paid salary at the very time of the education budgets cuts) to installing his henchman Wallace Hall wasting precious tax dollars and resources and contributing exactly what to the University?

Surely, the Board of Regents has many important issues with which it should be dealing. Being a pawn in what is obviously a purely political move should not be one of them. Firing someone who has only succeeded in his primary mission would be a travesty. Refuse to fire Bill Powers.

Mary Morgan  
Houston, TX

**From:** [MaryAnn Acosta](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** • The firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT.  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:41:01 PM

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- **The firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT.** It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, his presidency of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the Dell Medical School.
- **The Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers.** Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.
- **Why has this decision been made and why *now*?** To date, there has been no reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus.
- **Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university.** Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.
- **President Powers is willing to work with the System.** The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

Mary Ann (Teat) Acosta  
BJ 1970 University of Texas at Austin  
Life member, Texas Exes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:11:45 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster:

As an alumnus of The University of Texas, 1969, I support the current President, Bill Powers. Furthermore, I find the behavior of some of the members of the Board of Regents unacceptable to the University and the State of Texas.

I am counting on you to lead the Regents in the proper direction and stop the harassment of President Powers.

Sincerely, Mary M. Polk  
Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Matson, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Powers situation  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:48:38 AM

---

To Whom It May Concern -

Obviously, as an alumni with no special connections within the university organization, I have no specific information as to Bill Powers' performance as President of UT – just what I read in the papers. However, I am extremely disappointed in the performance of our Board of Regents. Even if President Powers is worthy of firing, the way that this entire situation is being handled reeks of childishness, pettiness, and a lack of accountability and oversight.

Let's fire Powers while the Hall investigation is still very much ongoing? Ridiculous.  
Let's let Cigarroa be the hatchet man, right before he leaves his post? Gutless.  
Let's force out Powers right before the Campaign for Texas is completed? Poor form.

Again, this email is not intended as a defense of President Powers. Based on what I DO know, I'm tempted to defend him, but I also know that I don't have all relevant information. This email IS intended to tell the Board of Regents to man up and do your jobs. The kind of stuff we're seeing is covered in Management 101.

I love our football team, and enjoy when they are performing well, but I always tell people that I'm happy with a .500 team that doesn't embarrass our university with scandal, devaluing my diploma. The Board is currently heading down that path. Again – man up.

Mark Matson  
BSEE '83

**From:** [Matthew Muller](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 9:30:25 PM

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I graduated the law school in 1985. If you fire Professor Powers I assure you with utter certainty I will never, ever, give the University of Texas a DIME, ever, not inter vivos, not in my will, and I will urge everyone who will listen to me to do the same.

Let the Governor's buddy implement his attack-academia crusade at A&M. Leave UT alone.

What idiocy are you folks up to, up there?

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Max McClure](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Defend Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:53:34 PM

---

Don't let the last liberal school in Texas go Rick Perry's way

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Meyerson, Alfred M.](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 7:07:07 PM

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Chairman Foster,

As a concerned alumnus of the University of Texas (BA '81, JD '84) and a current member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Exes, I am writing to you to express my utmost support of President Powers, and my disappointment in the most recent news reports about the threats to his continued tenure. I am sure that you have heard from many of the University's stakeholders – whether they be legislators, faculty, administration, students or alumni – it seems to me that an overwhelming majority of all of them have expressed their strong approval of President Powers and continued disapproval of how he is being treated. How often does that group so strongly agree on anything? The answer to that questions is what makes this circumstance so striking.

To elaborate, please keep in mind:


- The forced resignation or firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT. It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, transforming the undergraduate experience, bringing further prestige to UT through his chairmanship of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the establishment of the Dell Medical School.
- The Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers. Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.
- Why has this decision been made and why now? To date, there has been no reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum and notably, done so over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus.
- Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university. Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of a successful and highly regarded president is not in the best interest of UT.
- President Powers is willing to work with the System. The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

I firmly believe enough damage has been done to our University's (and out state's) reputation with this entire debacle. I urge you to work towards a graceful solution that will help to restore pride and integrity to what is becoming a much maligned institution.

Thank you for your leadership.

**Alfred M. Meyerson**

333 Clay Street, Suite 3300, Houston, Texas 77002

713-951-5870 (direct) | 832-397-8102 (fax) | 

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:03:26 AM

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I am writing in favor of Bill Powers being allowed to resign on May 30, 2015. It would be in the best long-term interest of the university and those that the university serves to allow Bill Powers to resign with his head held high.  
Marc Stewart BBA 1958

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Forced resignation of UT Austin President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:14:06 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster:

My husband, [REDACTED] and I wish to stress our dismay at the idea of a forced resignation of UT Austin President Bill Powers. We have been pleased to see the developments he has fostered on campus, especially with the undergraduate college. We have contributed to the capital campaign, because we think it is time that we support the sort of good changes he has brought about. While our contributions were relatively small—an endowed travel grant and an endowed scholarship—there have been many others who have found that the University was a good place to educate their children, and to educate the future citizens of Texas, and who have contributed according to their abilities.

Now you and your fellow regents seem to be bent on giving him an ultimatum, thus arousing the ire of many, many students, faculty members, alumni and friends of the University. How will you ever be able to hire an able successor if you treat this able man so badly? The University has suffered in the past from regents who were often politically inspired; please don't add yourselves to that list.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Michael O'Neal](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:40:06 PM

---

Hello,

I am a proud UT graduate in 1981. In very uncertain economic times, President Powers has led our university to prominence. It would be a shame to force his removal. He is nationally respected as indicated by his leading the AAU.

We are on the cusp of our \$3 billion dollar goal thanks to President Powers. Most importantly, the Legislature convenes in January with a new governor and a new Lt. Governor. Experience matters and we need to be united in our efforts to protect UT.

Please be wise and do not fire or force out this great President of our university. He is much more valuable than our lame duck Governor. If this occurs, it will be much more difficult to recruit a new chancellor as well as an effective new President.

Remember, the Eyes of Texas are upon you! Do not let us down. The aftermath if you proceed will much uglier than you can imagine.

Michael O'Neal  
Houston



**From:** [Michael R Fitch](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Cc:** [larry.gonzales@house.state.tx.us](mailto:larry.gonzales@house.state.tx.us)  
**Subject:** Thursday BOR Meeting - President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:29:48 PM

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To: Chancellor Cigarroa & Board Members,

I'm writing to ask that you postpone any action regarding the future of President Powers at the University of Texas at Austin. While I'm not in a position to have firsthand knowledge of issues between Dr. Powers and the university, any action should take place with as much transparency and deliberation as possible. I would also ask that you follow the instruction of the House Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations that no personnel decisions be made at the university during their active investigation.

If Dr. Powers has acted inappropriately, there needs to be a better forum for outlining your decisions than what is currently taking place through the unfortunate media leaks. As it stands, the view of many alumni - myself included - is that Dr. Powers has served UT well and deserves a fair and thoughtful process. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Regards,  
Michael Fitch  
Texas Ex Life Member - UT Class of 1993

**From:** [Milton Hawkins](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university.  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:00:19 PM

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**Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university.** Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.

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Milton Hawkins [REDACTED]  
BA in English, UT-Austin, 1959; Admitted to UT Law School, 1958; Graduate Work  
and TA in English, 1972-73  
P.O. Box 1502  
Johnson City, Texas 78636-1502  
830-868-9075

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Chancellor](#); [Board of Regents](#); [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 4:11:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [Powers letter.rtf](#)

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Sirs and Madam,

Please see my attached letter. Thank you.

Best,

[REDACTED]

July 8, 2014

Chairman Paul Foster  
Chancellor Cigarroa  
Representative Carol Alvarado

Dear Sirs and Madam,

I am writing to you all before the Thursday board meeting to voice my concerns about the forced resignation of President Bill Powers. I am an active alum (1976 UT graduate) and serve on the Advisory Arts Council of the College of Fine Arts at UT. Our family has been involved in supporting numerous scholarship and fundraising events to benefit UT over the past years.

Our two older children graduated from UT several years ago; and our youngest is an incoming sophomore student there so I am fairly knowledgeable about the student side of the School.

Almost all of our friends and acquaintances who have interests in UT have remarked over the last few years that UT has regained its stature and both national and international reputation again almost entirely due to the leadership of Bill Powers.

In Houston, we are incredulous that articles in the press depicting President Powers' forced resignation efforts appear to be essentially baseless. Is it just political—we are all shocked?

Is it not enough that he has led very successfully this record setting capital campaign (Note: many of our friends had been treated so shoddily by prior administrations that they had ceased to support the School in any way—now we have noticed a ground swell of financial and academic support again.) Additionally, he is chairing the prestigious Association of American Universities

and leading the establishment of the Dell Medical School!

Lastly, and certainly not the least important, our son's fellow students seem to love him. Frankly, when I was a college student, I am not sure I was that concerned with the UT President.

Thank you for your strong consideration of President Powers and his role at UT.

Sincerely,

  
UT Graduate -1976

**From:** [my email](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 5:25:19 PM

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I will be very disappointed and upset if Bill Powers is forced to resign tomorrow.  
These actions are not in the best interest of my university or the State of Texas.

Thank you,  
Dr. Matthew Haley

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:21:12 PM

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Gentlemen:

How unpleasant for any university to have its President publically threatened with “firing” in such a blatant, public display of division among the ranks! What are you thinking? Do you not consider the effect that this public whipping is having on our entire UT System? Our national reputation is being scrutinized all over the country! We have become the brunt of many jokes!

Why can't we settle the issue of Wallace Hall, before we announce another embarrassing attack? In fact, did not the lawmakers last July advise the System to not take any “adverse employment action” during the investigation of Regent Wallace Hall? It appears that you as board members and chancellor are ignoring that recommendation.

UT is finally getting a Medical School, 50 years overdue. Without Bill Powers, we'd still just be talking about that goal! In addition, he has raised millions of dollars in the capital campaign for the University. He has shown leadership and dedication. He deserves appreciation and respect.

President Powers made a public statement over the July 4th Holiday, that he is willing to discuss a succession plan for a transition of power which would NOT cause an interruption for this academic year. I would certainly expect you to respect his accomplishments enough to work with him in considering his exit strategy.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Jane Compere (Bobbitt)  
Life Member Texas Exes  
B.S. 1967

Sent from Windows Mail

**From:** [Nate Carty](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In regards to the matter of President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:39:21 AM

---

Dear Chairman Foster:

I have followed the recent reports for Bill Powers to resign or be fired as President of the University of Texas at Austin. I sincerely hope that you and the Board of Regents will refrain from this course of action. The damage that is being done to the University's reputation with this infighting will be long lasting and far outweigh gains from terminating his employment.

I have spent a lot of time working on behalf of the University over the past 10 years helping to raise its profile, raise funds for scholarships and help current students. As a member of the Chancellor's Council, I have made significant monetary contributions to the University, and I am absolutely appalled at the actions of the Board of Regents over the past few years.

Bill's accomplishments at the University (from the capital campaign to the reduction of the budget and the establishment of the Dell Medical School) have more than earned him the right to set his own time table for departure. As an active alumnus in New York City, I have seen first hand how the efforts of Bill have raised the University's profile both nationally and internationally. Losing Bill would be a travesty. Firing the active chairman of the AAU would send an absolutely horrible message to any potential replacement for Bill and damage the University for years to come, undoing in one rash action years of hard work by both the administration and dedicated alumni.

Additionally, this action goes directly against the instruction of lawmakers issued last July. Please reconsider your actions and help restore dignity to the University.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Carty, CFA  
Bachelor of Journalism, '98  
Chancellor's Council Member  
Texas Exes Chapter Advisory Board Member



**From:** [Nirav.Desai@mba09.mcombs.utexas.edu](mailto:Nirav.Desai@mba09.mcombs.utexas.edu)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:07:34 PM

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**Chairman Paul Foster:**

Please view this email as a token of my support to President Powers.

It is truly upsetting that to date, there has been no reason as to why President Powers was given an ultimatum [to resign or be fired] over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus. I strongly feel that an abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.

President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including a record-setting capital campaign. Furthermore, he has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

I would hope that no personnel decisions be made at the university during active investigations and that no “adverse employment actions” be taken at this point in time.

**Thank you.**

Nirav Desai  
MBA, Class of 2009

**From:** [Norcell D Haywood](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** WE STRONGLY SUPPORT POWERS.  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:12:01 PM

---

Keep President Powers at UT. He has done a Good Job.

Regards,  
Norcell D Haywood,AIA,Architect. Class of 1960. School of Architecture  
E-mail [REDACTED]

**From:** [Palermo, Dena](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:26:19 PM

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My daughter is a junior at UT. Bill Powers has done an outstanding job increasing the status of UT. I support Bill Powers and oppose the Board of Regent's constant attempt to undermine him. If there has in fact been any impropriety, then investigate and take appropriate action. Do not demand his resignation at this point.

**Dena Palermo**  
Partner

**Andrews Kurth LLP**

Houston: 600 Travis, Suite 4200, Houston, Texas 77002  
New York: 450 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017  
713.220.3846 Phone  
212.850.2989 Phone  
713.220.4794 Assistant Phone - Robin Franklin

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 7:03:10 PM

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Please count this donating University of Texas alumna as a firm supporter of President Bill Powers. Please do not let politics (and the idiocies of Regent Hall) force this man out of office.

[REDACTED]  
BA 1981

**From:** [Paul Freudenburg](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:56:44 PM

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Chairman Foster:

Please consider the following as I am disturbed by these actions as a fellow Texas Ex:

**The firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT.** It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, his presidency of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the Dell Medical School.

- **The Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers.** Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.

- **Why has this decision been made and why *now*?** To date, there has been no reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus.

- **Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university.** Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.

- **President Powers is willing to work with the System.** The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a

seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

**From:** [Peggy Kruger](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor; cigarroa@utsystem.edu](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents; Powers, William - UT Austin](#)  
**Subject:** IN SUPPORT OF WILLIAM POWERS from 5 Presidents of the Retired Faculty-Staff Association, The University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:00:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [CCE00003.pdf](#)  
[CCE00004.pdf](#)

---

Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa  
The University of Texas System  
601 Colorado Street  
Austin, Texas 78703

Dear Chancellor Cigarroa:

We write in our positions as former, current, and future Presidents of The Retired Faculty Staff Association (RFSA) of The University of Texas at Austin.

We wish to express strong support for the retention of William Powers as President of The University of Texas at Austin and ask that any decision regarding his retirement take into account any timelines cited by him. We base this endorsement on the outstanding record of accomplishments achieved during his tenure and the resulting esteem in which The University of Texas at Austin is held, not only in Texas, but nationally and internationally.

The RFSA has a history of strong support for President Powers which was expressed in a resolution from the RFSA Board in May, 2012, and again in a resolution voted upon by the general membership in the spring business Meeting of April, 2011. Both resolutions were forwarded to you and are attached for your review.

Respectfully,

Peggy A. Kruger, Ph.D.  
President, RFSA UT Austin, 2010-2012  
[pakruger@utexas.edu](mailto:pakruger@utexas.edu)

Dena H. Mersky  
President, RFSA UT Austin, 2012-13  
[REDACTED]

Barbara Myers  
President, RFSA UT Austin, 2013-14  
[REDACTED]

Peggy Mueller  
President, RFSA UT Austin, 2014-15  
[REDACTED]

Nancy Payne  
President-Elect, RFSA UT Austin, 2015-16  
[REDACTED]

cc:  
\*The Office of the President, The University of Texas at Austin  
\*Executive Board, The Retired Faculty-Staff Association, The University of Texas at Austin

\*The Faculty Council, The University of Texas at Austin  
\*The Texas Exes

ATTACHMENTS:

RESOLUTION from The Retired Faculty-Staff Association, The University of Texas at Austin May 2011

RESOLUTION of SUPPORT from the Board of the Retired Faculty-Staff Association, The University of Texas at Austin May 2012



**From:** [Perich, Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** RE: University of Texas Board of Regents; President Powers  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2014 6:45:48 PM

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Chairman Foster

Thank you for your efforts at brokering this recent truce and allowing for an orderly transition of power at the University. The papers report you were instrumental in that effort and I, for one, greatly appreciate it. I think it will benefit UT Austin significantly.

**Thomas J. Perich**  
Partner

**Andrews Kurth LLP**  
600 Travis, Suite 4200  
Houston, Texas 77002  
713.220.4268 Phone  
713.238.7175 Fax  
713.220.4080 Assistant Phone - Patti De Lance  
  
[vCard](#) | [Bio](#) | [andrewskurth.com](#)

---

**From:** Perich, Thomas  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:44 AM  
**To:** 'bor@utsystem.edu'  
**Cc:** 'carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us'; 'dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us'  
**Subject:** University of Texas Board of Regents; President Powers

Chairman Foster

I am writing to express my extreme dismay at the current plan to terminate President Bill Powers as the head of UT Austin.

I hold two degrees from UT Austin and our law firm, with me as part, has supported the law school as long as I can remember. As a native of Galveston, I have also long been involved with UTMB in numerous capacities, including being a former chair of the development board there and current co-chair of the \$450 million fundraising drive for a new hospital. How can I go and ask others to support the UT System when I presently do not feel like supporting it myself?

From my perspective, the merits of this dispute appear strongly on the side of the President and not the Board. However, above and beyond that, the approach and treatment of the President, irrespective of the merits, is shameful. How can you expect any candidate you would want to hire next to be interested in this job when one of the nation's most accomplished educators is humiliated publicly in this fashion? Losing both the Chancellor and now the President, both of

whom were previously lauded for their work at the University, under pressure from the Board of Regents, is disgraceful; it indicates to me that the Board is either succumbing to outside political pressure or is completely out of touch with the school and its supporters – or both. I cannot believe you would want your legacy to be the beginning of a downward spiral of one of American's great academic institutions but that appears where we are heading. Certainly this will have an immediate impact on support for the school from the alumni and students.

Rather than continue to lose, and be unable to attract, talent at the school, I would urge you, as well as the legislature, (copy hereof to the co-chairs of the appropriate House committee) to examine further certain members of the Board of Regents itself, as the legislature has started doing already with one member. That appears to be the crux of the problem about which I hope you will take appropriate action.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

**Thomas J. Perich**

Partner

**Andrews Kurth LLP**

600 Travis, Suite 4200

Houston, Texas 77002

713.220.4268 Phone

713.238.7175 Fax

713.220.4080 Assistant Phone - Patti De Lance

[REDACTED]

[vCard](#) | [Bio](#) | [andrewskurth.com](http://andrewskurth.com)

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**From:** [Perich, Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** "[carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us)"; "[dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us)"  
**Subject:** University of Texas Board of Regents; President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:44:39 AM

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Chairman Foster

I am writing to express my extreme dismay at the current plan to terminate President Bill Powers as the head of UT Austin.

I hold two degrees from UT Austin and our law firm, with me as part, has supported the law school as long as I can remember. As a native of Galveston, I have also long been involved with UTMB in numerous capacities, including being a former chair of the development board there and current co-chair of the \$450 million fundraising drive for a new hospital. How can I go and ask others to support the UT System when I presently do not feel like supporting it myself?

From my perspective, the merits of this dispute appear strongly on the side of the President and not the Board. However, above and beyond that, the approach and treatment of the President, irrespective of the merits, is shameful. How can you expect any candidate you would want to hire next to be interested in this job when one of the nation's most accomplished educators is humiliated publicly in this fashion? Losing both the Chancellor and now the President, both of whom were previously lauded for their work at the University, under pressure from the Board of Regents, is disgraceful; it indicates to me that the Board is either succumbing to outside political pressure or is completely out of touch with the school and its supporters – or both. I cannot believe you would want your legacy to be the beginning of a downward spiral of one of American's great academic institutions but that appears where we are heading. Certainly this will have an immediate impact on support for the school from the alumni and students.

Rather than continue to lose, and be unable to attract, talent at the school, I would urge you, as well as the legislature, (copy hereof to the co-chairs of the appropriate House committee) to examine further certain members of the Board of Regents itself, as the legislature has started doing already with one member. That appears to be the crux of the problem about which I hope you will take appropriate action.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

**Thomas J. Perich**  
Partner

**Andrews Kurth LLP**  
600 Travis, Suite 4200  
Houston, Texas 77002  
713.220.4268 Phone  
713.238.7175 Fax  
713.220.4080 Assistant Phone - Patti De Lance

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**From:** [Platis, Michael S](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 3:28:04 PM

---

Dear Board of Regents,

I'm writing to express deep concern over the future of Bill Powers as President of UT-Austin. As a proud alum, I request the he not be fired. Nearly everyone that I know firmly believes him to be an excellent leader who represents the University with integrity, intelligence and class. Recent reports of his impending dismissal are troubling and potentially damaging to the University's academic standing. If his retention is not to be, then I hope you will at least allow President Powers to leave on his own terms.

Sincerely,

*Michael S. Platis*  
*BSME '81*

**From:** [Rachael A Low](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Powers Support  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 8:44:55 AM

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Regents,

I am emailing you to express my support for President Powers. I attended UT thirty years ago and remember it well. I have three children who are fortunate enough to attend now. The education they are receiving is top notch (one is Computational Biology, one is a McCombs business major and another is a communications major). When I think of where we were 30 years ago and where we are now with TOP ranked programs throughout our university, I get chills. Much of this progress has taken place during President Powers tenure. This whole issue of his resignation and Perry's juvenile behavior for the last few years reeks of pure politics that we, the real people who suffer, are not privy to. Believe me that I know about politics and disregard for those represented as I am from the now infamous Beaumont, Texas where the "real" people have been trying to oust a school board run by invisible puppeteers who have their own political agendas. You underestimate the intelligence of the people and assume we are not smart enough to see what is really going on. Please STOP playing politics and think of my university and our kids. I have never understood why the AAU thinks President Powers is competent enough to run their organization but a bunch of appointed Regents (with backgrounds in education right?) think not. By the way, I have a few thoughts on the Top 10% Rule too if you would like to hear them as I am white and have 5 white children whose educations have revolved around this political rule too.

Rachael Roane

"Hook 'Em Horns"

BBA Finance, The University of Texas, 1983

--

*Rachael Roane*

**From:** [Rachel Jamail](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In STRONG Support of President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:35:21 PM

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Chairman Foster,

My name is Rachel M. Jamail, and I am a Life Member of the Texas Exes. I graduated with my undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Austin in May 2010. Afterwards, I attended Harvard University, where I received my Master's degree, which means I believe that I now hold degrees from the two best universities in the world. In fact, I am confident that my acceptance to Harvard University was in large part because of the value of my degree from The University of Texas. So much so, I since returned to UT, where I pursued my Ph.D., because I know that my education, under the leadership of President Bill Powers, is unparalleled.

I whole-heartedly stand with Bill Powers as the President of our esteemed university. I know that if he leaves, the results will be devastating. Primarily, the loss of his leadership would be immediate. And, secondly, the likelihood of finding a top-quality candidate to replace him would be severely limited because no one in their right mind would want to work at a university where politics play such a heavy handed role that its leader is not free to voice his opinion without fear of retaliation. President Powers has been an incredible driving force in raising the standard, rigor, and value of a University of Texas degree, in making the university a better place for all who attend and work there, and in making the university a valued asset of the greater community.

I value my degree. I value my university. I stand with President Bill Powers.

Rachel Meyerson Jamail

**From:** [Ralph or Donna Yoas](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:40:14 PM

---

UT - Austin has made tremendous strides with Bill Powers as president. The university is ranked in the top 10 public schools in America. The research conducted there has brought tremendous credit to the University. Its graduates lead many corporations around the world. To me, the effort to oust him appears to be a political vendetta by Rick Perry and his appointees. Bill Powers needs to stay.

Ralph Yoas  
BS-EE  
1959



**From:** [Ralph Wayne](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:24:05 AM

---

I support President Bill Powers-100%!

Ralph Wayne 512 897 8899 cell

RW

Sent from my iPhone  
Please excuse brevity and any errors

**From:** [RANDY BARTHOLOMEW](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 4:39:13 PM

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Keep Bill Powers,



**From:** [Ray CHILTON](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:56:03 AM

---

Chairman Paul Foster,

Please retain President Powers. Political struggles should not be allowed to downgrade the status of the University of Texas and that will happen if you relieve President Powers of his position. Again, please retain President Powers.

Ray Taggart Chilton  
Class of 1964  
Plan II Honors

Sent from my iP

**From:** [Ray CHILTON](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President William Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:52:10 AM

---

Dr. Cigarroa,  
Please allow William Powers to retain his office. UT needs him to maintain it's premier standing in the US. Please do not let this politically motivated struggle harm the university by firing President Powers.  
Ray Chilton  
Class of 1964  
Plan III Honors

Sent from my iP

**From:** [Rebecca Beal](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** ultimatum to President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 1:55:23 PM

---

Dear Members of the Board of Regents, University of Texas System,


I am writing regarding an e-mail I received from Texas-exes Board President Kay Bailey Hutchison and Board Chairman Charles Matthews. They write that UT-Austin President Powers has been informed he must either resign or be fired. I ask that you reconsider your position in this matter, that you recognize the terrific job President Powers has done in a truly horrendous time for higher education.

UT is on track to compete with the best universities in the world, not just the U.S., and President Powers is at the center of this progress: he has recruited good administrators, supported his faculty and students, and his Campaign for Texas has even gotten me involved--way up north in Pennsylvania! While I am very proud to be an alumna of UT, I am alarmed and concerned about the direction it is going now. I am very much afraid that this progress is in real danger, that the productive energy and vitality of the Forty Acres is being wasted and diminished by attacks on a president that the campus community very much admires.

Please let Bill Powers do his job; I will bless you, and so will thousands of other Texas alums.

Hook 'em horns!

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Beal

Rebecca S. Beal Ph.D.  
Professor of English  
Department of English & Theatre  
The University of Scranton  
Scranton, PA 18510  
(570) 575-8295  


**From:** [Rebhorn, Wayne A](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** please hesitate before you think of firing Bill Powers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 1:07:09 PM

---

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I have been a professor at the University of Texas of Austin since 1968 and have seen countless presidents come and go. Of them all, there is no doubt in my mind that President Powers is the best one we have ever had. He oversaw the revision of the curriculum to make students' first years of study at the university more meaningful in an academic way. He has supported the raising of standards throughout the university, something which has ensured our continuing position as one of the best universities in the world, and not just in the United States. He is currently heading up the effort to increase the university's endowment by three *billion* dollars. He was elected the head of the association of university presidents. Finally--and perhaps most importantly from an academic viewpoint--I have found him supportive of the university's mission as an teaching and research institution in every conceivable way. Thus, I cannot see any reason why you would want to fire a person who has worked so long and so hard to make UT truly a "university of the first class." I will be devastated to see him go, as will the vast majority of the faculty and students at the university. And from what I have seen, UT's alumni will be outraged, as they have been over events that have transpired during the last twelve months. So, please reconsider the steps you are thinking of taking. Indeed, unless very substantial reasons can be given for firing the president, it will look like the worst kind of politics, and this will damage the university's reputation on the national scene in very substantial ways

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Rebhorn  
Celanese Centennial Professor  
The University of Texas at Austin  
English Department  
1 University Station  
Austin, Texas 78712-0195

**From:** [Richard Gannett](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [chancellor@utsystem.edu](#); [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](#); [dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](#); [eric.johnson@house.state.tx.us](#); [naomi.gonzales@house.state.tx.us](#); [lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us](#); [trey.martinez@house.state.tx.us](#); [charles.perry@house.state.tx.us](#); [four.price@house.state.tx.us](#)  
**Subject:** Absolute Disagreement With Cigarrola's "Resign or Be Fired" Ultimatum to UT President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:10:22 PM

---

**Chairman Foster & UT Board of Regents,**

As a UT-Austin alumnus & long time loyal supporter of my alma mater & most certainly its leadership of our president, Bill Powers, I wish to firmly register my complete bewilderment & absolute disagreement with any desire or decision by the Board to in any way recommend and/or force President Powers to "resign or be fired" per Chancellor Cigarrola's recently reported sudden ultimatum. Not only would such a move by the Board be grossly irresponsible, ill-timed & inappropriate, but moreover, would reflect a clear disregard for our University's fine nationwide reputation as one of America's leading state universities and needlessly promote further tension among the UT faculty, administration & alumni. Overall, President Powers' vision & outstanding leadership of the UT-Austin is widely recognized nationally & certainly underlined by his election as president of the prestigious Association of American Universities.

Cigarrola's claim of concern of his "fractured" communication with President Powers appears to be the quite limited opinion of he and a couple of renegade Regents, one of whom is under investigation by our legislature for probable impeachment from the Board.

Furthermore, this ultimatum seems to fly in the face of the directive to the Board by the legislature's House Select Committee on Transparency not to consider or take any such actions during its current on-going Board member impeachment investigation.

Therefore, this insists that any such recommendation by Cigarrola or anyone else regarding a dismissal of President Powers be fully disregarded since to do otherwise would be clearly & needlessly disruptive and not at all in the best interests of the UT System's flagship university.

Respectively,  
Richard Gannett (Texas '58)  
Dallas

**From:** [Richard Heller](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** News on the possible firing of President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:34:33 PM

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Dear Chair Foster:

Thank you for your [I imagine] thankless volunteer work that you do as Chairman of the Board of Regents at The University of Texas System. I am volunteer in my local community and I know that it can be at times exhausting.

Mr. Foster, I am a proud three-time graduate of The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelors Degree, Masters Degree and PhD in Electrical Engineering all from the Cockrell School of Engineering and a member of the Chancellor's Council.

I have been following the long and recent developments with regards to my alma mater closely with disappointed eyes. It is my belief that the mission and core values of The University of Texas at Austin are under attack.

Funds invested in higher education are an investment in the future of the State of Texas. UT is not making widgets; it is investing in human capital.

Similar to the Commission of 125, I strongly believe that The University of Texas is strengthened by faculty research, as well as a teaching environment made up of distinguished tenured faculty and renowned lecturers. It is imperative that The University of Texas at Austin remains a world-class public education and research institution.

It appears, however, that UT has come under attack from outside political influences or by perhaps members of the Board of Regents. It is sad to see a personal battle between President Powers and some members of the Board. While I can imagine that President Powers is not in the right in all times, this ongoing battle is an ugly affair and a vote of firing in this week's Board of Regents meeting will only make this mess more public and more political to the detriment of UT's reputation and ongoing efforts for excellence.

Mr. Foster, I hope that cooler heads can prevail to allow for a more graceful hand-off of the UT President role from Mr. Powers to his successor. This is especially important considering we have an ongoing UT Chancellor search.

Once again, I commend your time and efforts. It is my hope that The University of Texas will be protected from dangerous political influences. And as the father of three young boys under the age of five, I hope that The University of Texas will remain one of the top public universities in the world for generations to come.

Sincerely,  
Richard D. Heller, Ph.D.  
Senior Member of Technical Staff, Advanced Micro Devices



**From:** [Richard N Pickett](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:54:33 PM

---

Gentlemen,

Please do not fire, replace, etc., President Powers. Any more shenanigans and I don't think I will ever be able to vote for another aggie again. For anything.

Thanks

Richard N Pickett

**From:** [Richard Seline](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I stand with President Powers...let his work, that of the Legislature, and most importantly the calming capabilities of the regents, former Senator Hutchison and the Speaker combine to settle this down and make all of UT shine again.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:49:04 PM

---

Richard Seline  
Principal, Global NextGen Advisors  
email [REDACTED]  
<http://rseline.wix.com/global-nextgen>  
Mobile: 703 608 3000  
1.800.708.0478 x2  
LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/richardseline>  
How can I help?: <https://clarity.fm/richardseline>

**From:** [Rick Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:33:08 PM

---

Dear Regents,

Bill Powers must be allowed to stay in his position at least through next year when his term will expire as president of the AAU. If he is forced to resign before then it will do irreparable harm to our university. He has done an outstanding job of enhancing the quality and reputation of our programs. Forcing him to resign now will cause a chain reaction that will reduce our overall rankings, reduce grant income, and reduce private contributions. In short, it will be a disaster!

Thank you for your consideration.

Rick Robinson  
President



[rickrobinsonbuilders.com](http://rickrobinsonbuilders.com)

**From:** [Rob Hargett](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:21:00 PM

---

Dear Chairman Foster and Members of the Board of Regents:

Please do not take any action to terminate University of Texas President Bill Powers. The interests of the University, the State of Texas and higher education are better served by a thoughtful and well-planned transition. A world class university should treat departing leaders who have given their utmost in a respectful and dignified manner.

Thank you for your service.

Rob Hargett

Robert L. Hargett  
Attorney  
5608 Parkcrest Drive, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78731  
512.660.5960 main  
512.660.5968 direct  
512.660.5979 fax



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**From:** [Robert Icenhauer-Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:07:21 PM

---

Dear Chairman Foster and Members of the Board of Regents,

I am writing to express my support for Bill Powers and to request that you give him a vote of confidence at Thursday's meeting.

The support of the alumni and those of us who love the University of Texas at Austin is nearly unanimous in his support. Please continue to support President Powers.

Thank you very much for reading this email - Robert Icenhauer-Ramirez

--

Robert Icenhauer-Ramirez  
Attorney at Law  
1103 Nueces Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512.477.7991  
512.477.3580 fax

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**From:** [Robert Ozer](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Board Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:42:46 PM

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Hello: I did follow up with a call yesterday and was told I had a place but that I would receive further communication as to my allotment of time and the approximate time I could make a presentation. Please advise at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration. Bob Ozer

On Jul 5, 2014, at 11:33 AM, Robert Ozer <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Sirs or Madams:

My name is Robert Ozer. I am an Austin attorney. I would like to speak to the Board at the upcoming Board meeting. My contact information aside from the e-mail above is:

Robert Ozer  
2612 Delwood Place  
Austin, Texas 78703  
Cell: 512-913-3953 (best)  
Landline: 512-477-1900

I will follow up on this with a call to your office on Monday.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Ozer

**From:** [Robert Wiacek](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I stand with Bill Power  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:41:29 PM

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Dear Chairman Paul Foster:

I found the news of the forced resignation or potential firing of President Bill Powers to be quite disturbing and not in the best interest of the University of Texas at Austin. Under President Power, the prestige of the university has only grown through his various accomplishments, such as:

- The record-setting capital campaign;
- Cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget;
- Transforming the undergraduate experience;
- Bringing further prestige to UT through his chairmanship of the AAU (the Association of American Universities);
- The establishment of the Dell Medical School.

I would also remind the chairman that the Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers. Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.

To date, there has been no reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum and notably, done so over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus. Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university. Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of a successful and highly regarded president is not in the best interest of UT.

President Powers is willing to work with the System. The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

Hook 'em Horns!

Robert Wiacek, PhD  
Class of 2002  
Immediate Past President of the Texas Exes Washington D.C. Chapter

**From:** [Roxanne Boyd](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Ultimatum to President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:25:02 PM

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Chairman Foster and Members of the Board of Regents:

The action against President Powers is damaging to the University. I urge that this matter be resolved without an ultimatum in order to preserve the reputation of this great University and insure an orderly transition.

Sincerely,  
Roxanne Boyd, BA '67, MSSW '79

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Rudolph K. Metayer](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Austin Black Lawyers Support Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:50:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [Austin Black Lawyers Association Bill Powers letter.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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Chairman Foster,

My name is Rudolph Metayer and I am President of the Austin Black Lawyers Association (ABLA). Several people that I trust at the University gave me your information as someone who I should contact regarding the situation with President Powers.

To say that this is disconcerting to both myself and my membership would be putting it mildly. It is shameful, shocking, and pathetic. Such a blatant political play would be laughable if not for the stakes at play here. What's even more unnerving is that I am not aware of any voices of persons of color being heard in this entire debate. We find this situation even more repugnant due to the University's consistent efforts over the last several years to reach out to both the diverse population of the Greater Austin community and the State of Texas. Never before have we seen a closer relationship between this community and UT, yet it seems people are willing to get rid of the catalyst to this monumental change.

That is why I have crafted the attached letter in support of Bill. He truly is one of the finest persons that I have ever known. If possible, please use this as quotes in parts or publish as a whole where you deem appropriate. Whatever can be used to bring light to this situation that people of color, particularly the black community, will not stand for these antics.

I know that you are in a hard situation and no decision you make will make everyone happy. However, please let this man finish his time at the University in as dignified a manner as possible. That's all any of us can ask for Sir.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone ([512-680-3498](tel:512-680-3498)).

Thank You.

Sincerely

--Rudolph K Metayer  
Sent via iPhone  
Til' Gabriel Blows His Horn

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**From:** [Russell Holley-Hurt](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 1:21:39 PM

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I am writing to express my support for President Bill Powers. His leadership has kept the University of Texas as one of the most respected schools in the country. He has served the University well and has earned the right to leave on his own terms.

Sincerely,  
Russell Holley-Hurt  
MSIS, University of Texas School of Information 2012

**From:** [Russell PaInton](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 8:10:15 AM

---

Gentlemen,

Having followed the activities of Powers for some time, I have become alarmed at his turn to the left, including, in particular, his insistence on using race in the admission policy. He needs to go.

Regards

*Russell Painton*

*B.S.M.E. J.D.*

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**From:** [Russell Post](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:16:48 PM

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Dear sir or madam,

I write, with the deepest respect for the Board of Regents, in support of UT President Bill Powers. For several years, while Bill was a respected faculty member of UT Law School and then its Dean, I had the pleasure and privilege of working directly with him in his role as an "of counsel" consultant to my law firm. From those experiences, I can personally attest to Bill's extraordinary intellect and vision, as well as his personal integrity; I was delighted when he was named President of the University and I have been extremely proud of his accomplishments. As a graduate of the Plan II program, I am also fortunate to serve on the Advisory Council for the College of Liberal Arts, which continually renews my respect for President Powers and my commitment to our University.

I strongly believe that UT Austin should not surrender its vision to be a "university of the first rank," in which scholarship and research are the hallmarks of prestige, for an educational model based on business metrics that values income production and various measures of efficiency above the traditional measures of academic distinction. There is a place in the higher education system for those values, but not at the state's flagship university. The measure of greatness in a university is focused on academic freedom, research, scholarship, and the marketplace of ideas – not the marketplace of commerce.

I also believe it is not too much to say that this debate is a "culture war" about the importance of the university, and higher education, in our society. UT Austin is not alone in this war; it is being fought across the country. One year ago, the University of Virginia (home of my law school) waged a similar battle that tried to force out the President of the university, Theresa Sullivan (formerly a distinguished member of the UT faculty, as it happens). UVA alumni and faculty rallied to her defense, and I am proud to say she was restored to her position – and the image of the University of Virginia as a leading academic institution was protected in the process. That event garnered headlines and media coverage across the country – just as the UT event is now doing. Austin is now the battleground, and this event is being watched nationally. It is no accident that Bill Powers currently serves as the chairman of the Association of American Universities, an organization of elite universities in the United States; his election was a worthy recognition of his scholarly achievements and his stature as a university administrator, but I am confident that it was also intended as a vote of confidence and a show of solidarity by his peers among the elite universities in this country. Petty political agendas and contrived controversies cannot become a basis for the elimination of such a distinguished university president without making a mockery of the ideal of academic freedom (and making a mockery of the University of Texas as well).

This is not only an important moment for the future of the University of Texas; it is an important moment for the future of higher education in the United States. I hope you will rise to the occasion and assure the continuation of genuine academic freedom at the University we all love. The legacy of this Board of Regents will be forever linked to the outcome of this crisis. We are proud to say that "what starts here, changes the world," and sometimes that is absolutely true. This is such a time. I hope you will use your position of trust to change it for good.

Russell Post  
UT (Plan II) Class of 1991

**RUSSELL POST**  
**Partner**  
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Texas Board of Legal Specialization

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Sandy Alcala](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In support of President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:54:14 AM

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Here are the reasons why I support President Powers and hope you will as well:

- **The firing of Bill Powers would be a travesty for UT.** It would cause further tension with legislators regarding the UT System; compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni; and invoke serious harm to the institution's national reputation, making it more difficult for the university to recruit and retain the very best. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including: the record-setting capital campaign, cutting up to \$490 million from the university's budget, his presidency of the AAU (the Association of American Universities), and the Dell Medical School.
- **The Chancellor's actions go directly against the instruction of lawmakers.** Last July, the House Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations told the System not to take any "adverse employment action" during the ongoing investigation of Regent Wallace Hall.
- **Why has this decision been made and why *now*?** To date, the Chancellor has not given a specific reason as to why Powers was given this ultimatum over a holiday break, when the majority of students and faculty were not on campus. The System's actions must be transparent and politics should be set aside.
- **Ultimatums are not in the best interest of the university.** Leaders of our university need to work together to affect positive, long-term change. An abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.
- **President Powers is willing to work with the System.** The president has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next legislative session.

Best,  
Sandy Segura Alcala  
UT BS '84

**From:** [Sandy Sales](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for UT President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 7:43:50 AM

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Dear Chairman Foster and University of Texas Board of Regents,

I write in strong support for President Bill Powers. The Board of Regents risks causing irreparable damage to the premier institution in the State of Texas if, as recently reported, action is taken to remove him as President. The University of Texas has been well-served by President Powers' outstanding leadership, and he has the near universal support of hundreds of thousands of UT alumni, the Texas legislature, the faculty, and his peers. Please place the best interest of the University and the State of Texas first and vote to retain President Powers. An appropriate transition can then occur when, as publically reported, President Powers retires at the end of 2015.

Travis J. Sales  
BBA 1984  
JD 1987

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:35:55 PM

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Dear Board of Regents:

I read with dismay over the fourth of July weekend that Bill Powers was under pressure from you to resign as President of the University of Texas at Austin, largely as a result of his expressing disappointment for a rejected tuition increase proposal.

I have been affiliated with the University since 1991 when I became an undergraduate student. I ended with two degrees from Texas, including one from the Plan II Honors Program; have become a life member of the Texas Exes and a significant supporter of the University's athletics programs. In that time I have seen many changes in its leadership, and I have been pleased with the progress that President Powers has made in improving the educational quality and reputation of my alma mater.

In 1839, representatives of the Congress of the Republic of Texas, for whose independence my ancestors had recently fought, set aside land for a public university because they understood the importance of quality education to the future of Texas. The state's constitution later called for a "university of the first class" because our leaders again recognized the value of higher education to Texas.

Today, the Texas economy is the pride of the nation and hundreds of thousands of Americans from every other state move here because of the opportunity our state provides. The rapid changes our state and its economy are undergoing and will continue to undergo in this century demand leadership, the kind of leadership that is taught at a "university of the first class." President Powers has fought to maintain that status for the University, a status I fear his abrupt removal will unnecessarily jeopardize.

Finally, as a manager of an enterprise, I found that I valued the opinions of my employees whom I trusted to take responsibility for the components of the organization which they led. Those opinions were valuable to me even if I disagreed with them. I wanted my employees to have the courage to take risks and demonstrate leadership without fear of reprisal for merely "rocking the boat." I don't understand why you wouldn't expect and in fact demand the same from someone entrusted to run such a valuable enterprise as the state's flagship university.

I want to express my support for President Powers and hope that you will make a clear statement of support for his leadership at UT Austin.

Thank you for your service,  
[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Chairman Foster-I support President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 5:21:14 PM

---

Best Regards,

Steven M. Covey  
1010 Lamar St, Suite 800  
Houston, TX 77002

[REDACTED]

713-652-4040 Office #  
713-652-9090 Fax #  
713-851-3555 Cell #

**From:** [Sean Farnsworth](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:22:15 AM

---

I would like to add my voice to what I guess to be thousands of others in support of Bill Powers.

You on the board are in a unique position, and as a Texas-Ex who loves his university, I would beg of you to consider what is at stake here, both in the short and long term views.

There is reasonable debate to be had over the issues at hand, but Mr. Powers' record during his tenure is not debatable. It is unquestionable folly to attempt to force a resignation at this juncture, especially when Mr. Powers has clearly been open about a reasonable timetable for his exit.

Legislators, prominent alumni, statewide politicians, former and current have all urged you to reconsider your position.

I am doing the same. Maintaining the integrity of the University of Texas should be your utmost concern. The success of maintaining this, a University of the first class is critical. The political motivations of the players in this game are disturbing. The path you're embarking on is a slippery slope that would create instability for UT, and a chilling effect when considering any future candidate for President. I highly doubt the best qualified applicants would rush to take Mr. Powers' job in the face of politically motivated dismissals, very public battles with the board of regents, and termination after 6 years of unmitigated success.

Please, put an end to these swirling rumors. Support your President and work with him on a reasonable timetable for an exit. Support the University of Texas and use your influence to ensure stability and success in the short term, and protect the legacy and future of our great institution long term.

Humbly,  
Sean Farnsworth  
UT Austin, Class of 2003

**From:** [Shelly Bain](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [chancellor@utsystem.com](mailto:chancellor@utsystem.com)  
**Subject:** President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 1:43:14 PM

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Dear sirs,

I am vehemently opposed to the actions put forth by the Board of Regents with regards to the dismissal of President Powers. As an alumni of UT-Austin, a registered voter in Texas, and a supporter of higher education, I find these bullying tactics to be reprehensible. Powers is an effective, successful and well-liked administrator who has moved The University forward in too many areas to list. You are making a grave mistake and angering legions of UT alumni, faculty and staff with your big-ego politics. I urge you to reconsider this initiative and instead focus on the best interests of The University of Texas. Hint: this isn't in the best interest of UT.

Most sincerely,  
Shelly Reese Bain  
BJ 1997, MA 2004

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Shelly Tom](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Re: President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 11:58:08 PM

---

Dear Chairman Paul Foster,

Please view this email as a token of my support to President Powers.

It is truly upsetting that to date, there has been no reason as to why President Powers was given an ultimatum [to resign or be fired] over a holiday break, when the majority of stated students and faculty were not on campus. I strongly feel that an abrupt termination of the president—without explanation—is not in the best interest of UT.

President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, including a record-setting capital campaign. Furthermore, he has offered to define a succession plan that will allow for a seamless transition of power. It would also allow him to lead the university through the next academic year and legislative session.

I would hope that no personnel decisions be made at the university during active investigations and that no “adverse employment actions” be taken at this point in time.

Thank you,  
Shelly Tom

McCombs MBA 2014

**From:** [Shepperd, John R.](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 2:21:12 PM

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I will keep this missive brief since I expect the volume of emails similar to this one is substantial.

As a University of Texas Alumnus (B.A. – '83, J.D. – '86), I am proud of my education. It was the University of my parents and grandparents, and I hope it will be the University of my children. I've watched the tug-o-war between various factions regarding what direction the University should be taken in the future, with certain regents on one side and President Powers on the other. Both sides make some compelling points, but in the end, my support goes with the vision of President Powers.

A long line of University presidents have endeavored to make Texas "a University of the First Class," and they have met with considerable success. However, I believe President Powers has made greater strides to maintain and enhance the University than his predecessors. His vision is my vision. His task is not finished and his accomplishments remain threatened if he is not allowed to continue. I am concerned with the direction planned once President Powers leaves his position.

Certainly the value of a Texas degree should include its economic value in the business domain. But an education is more than training on how to ply a trade. It must include exposure to the arts and sciences alike. This necessarily means exposure to world class researchers and thinkers whose body of work doesn't directly translate to a marketable trade. Without this enrichment, the student body would be little more than automatons; a populace that isn't curious and doesn't question its surroundings or itself.

As a lifetime member of the Texas Ex-Students Association, I urge the regents allow President Powers to continue his work as President.

John R. Shepperd  
Attorney at Law  
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP  
909 Fannin Street, Suite 3300  
Houston, TX 77010  
713.353.2010 (Direct)  
713.542.4728 (Cell)  
713.353.2000 (Main)  
713.785.7780 (Fax)  
[REDACTED]

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Thank you.

**From:** [Sk](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** KEEP President Powers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 06, 2014 1:53:06 PM

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I can't remember when my alma mater has ever embarrassed me. There's a first for everything. I received this email today. I couldn't have said it better. I only hope a future President sees what happens when the Regents become political puppets.... Take your toys and get out of our sandbox.

Shelly Kanter  
BJ'77

[Multiple news outlets](#) are reporting that UT-Austin President Bill Powers has been given an ultimatum to resign or be fired at this week's meeting of the Board of Regents. We can confirm for you that this news is accurate, and that President Powers has declined to resign, instead asking to work together on a timeline for change.

A forced resignation or firing would be a travesty for UT. It would cause further tension with legislators regarding UT System, would compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni, and invoke serious harm to the institution's reputation in the national spotlight. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, and has been a great leader; he deserves better than this. This is about our university; it is a treasure that alumni need to protect and we need to stand up and fight for its stature. The University of Texas at Austin deserves better than this.

**This latest news came from an unfortunate leak to the media which has caused a premature impression of an ongoing and unresolved person decision, and has inflamed the controversy. If the individual who leaked the details of the conversation between the chancellor and the president of UT-Austin to the media is in a fiduciary role over the university, this person has breached that duty and has not acted honorably nor in the best interests of the university. Despite this, the chancellor and the president should be able to work together on a mutual decision that provides leadership and a succession plan for the university. That is the way this kind of change is responsibly made.**

Thank you for your loyalty to our great alma mater.

**Kay Bailey Hutchison, President of the Board**  
**Charles Matthews, Chairman of the Board**

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**From:** [Smith, Jim](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 1:14:57 PM

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Chairman Foster: I am a 1965 graduate of the UT Business School and a 1967 graduate of the UT Law School. I strongly support Bill Powers regarding the ongoing controversy at UT. President Powers has served UT with distinction. Please don't embarrass UT.

**James W. Smith, Jr.**

**From:** [Spider Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Saturday, July 05, 2014 2:34:46 PM

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## **I Support Bill Powers**



For three years,  
UT Austin has  
been the

subject of a politically motivated campaign to attack and discredit our President, Bill Powers. During his tenure, President Powers has advanced UT Austin in remarkable ways including reforming our core curriculum, creating the first medical school at a tier one university in over 50 years, and successfully leading a three billion dollar capital campaign. President Powers was also elected by fellow university presidents to be Chairman of the Association of American Universities, a group of the 61 leading universities in the nation. Despite leading UT Austin to such significant accomplishments, being recognized as a national leader in higher education, and enjoying strong support from students, faculty, staff, and alumni, Chancellor Cigarroa has issued an ultimatum to President Powers: resign or be fired on July 10. This isn't the first time we've heard these rumors and they always arise in the summer, a deliberate attempt by the Board of Regents to hide from the university community while so many are away for the summer. Longhorns, President Powers has stood up for us time and time again.

Cheri and Spider Ryan

UT Chancellor Council Members  
UT Littlefield Society Members

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Stacey Ingram Kaleh](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Expressing Support for Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:18:58 PM

---

Dear Chairman Foster,

As a UT-Austin graduate, staff member, and native Austinite, I feel that President Powers has done an outstanding job raising the University's national profile, advancing important and globally-relevant research, and being responsive to student needs. To fire him or ask him to resign would be an absolute detriment to the University's reputation and the Longhorn spirit.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Stacey Ingram Kaleh

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Stacey Ingram Kaleh  
Public Relations and Marketing Manager

Blanton Museum of Art  
The University of Texas at Austin  
512.471.8433

[www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org)  
[facebook.com/blantonmuseumofart](https://facebook.com/blantonmuseumofart)  
[@blantonmuseum](#)

**From:** [Stan Babbitt](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** I stand with Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:05:21 PM

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Dear Sirs and Madams,

As a two-time graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, I would like to make known my unequivocal support for President Bill Powers, and I urge you to disavow the rumor of his ousting.

Sincerely,

Stan Babbitt  
B.S. 2005  
M.Ed. 2009

**From:** [Stanley Post](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:26:32 PM

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Dear Sir or Madam:

I simply wish to convey to you my support for Bill Powers. I feel he has done, and is doing a commendable job for UT and the State of Texas. I urge your support of him also, as well as for his vision for UT as a world class university.

Respectfully,

Stan Post  
UT class of 1961

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [stephen grygar](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for UT-Austin president Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:39:15 PM

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"What starts here changes the world." How I wish the University still could claim this motto.

As a graduate I firmly believe that The University of Texas at Austin is not only an elite institution but is a role model for public universities across the world. To allow such an institution to be dragged into the public political realm is unacceptable. I also struggle to understand how the removal of President Powers or the public nature of the battle surrounding his position is in the best interest of The University or the State of Texas.

As a recent MBA graduate, I am actively involved in the Board of Visitors for the Duke MBA program and can undeniably say that in comparison I am ashamed of the actions surrounding The University of Texas' leadership. I was privileged enough to understand the inner workings of Duke's leadership change and the risk factors associated with such a move. It was done with respect and in such a way as to preserve the delicate nature of faculty and student engagement and perception.

There are a few simple facts that are clearly being ignored. If they are not being ignored please state publicly why this current solution is the best for the short and long term of the University, System, and State.

1) President Powers has not only managed the University to higher levels of recognition but did so while raising funds and cutting costs. A task that a vast majority of institutions would consider impossible.

2) The long-term public nature of this battle has instilled a lack of confidence in the system among graduates like myself, current students, and professors. High quality professors, as you know, are the lifeblood of an institution. Why would you risk harming your most important asset by trying to strong arm the University?

3) Powers is willing to work with the system and have a solution that is acceptable for all parties despite the fact that I firmly believe that he should not be asked to step down.

I urge you to put power, passion, and personal gain aside to do what is best for the University which we all love.

Regards,  
Stephen Grygar  
BBA '06

**From:** [Steve Hobbs](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Brief  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:30:42 PM

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Good afternoon Chancellor Cigarroa,

Would you mind elaborating on the rumors surrounding President Powers' ouster by the UT Board of Regents? I am not interested in the long version, but I would appreciate a brief understanding of the details regarding this initiative to force his resignation. I have maintained a level of observation from afar for the last few years, but I have not had the opportunity to obtain any pertinent information regarding this current situation.

Thank you in advance for your candor.

Best regards,

Steve

*Steve Hobbs  
Vice President  
Southwestern Payroll Service  
(918) 388-3325 direct  
(918) 630-2966 cell*



*Integrity in Payroll*



**From:** [Steve Winter](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Bill Powers!!!  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 9:46:53 PM

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Sincerely,

Steve M. Winter  
UT Class of '85  
281-808-2020 Cell

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Steve Zach](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Please do not fire President Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 9:11:26 AM

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Dear Chairman Foster,

Please do not fire University of Texas President Bill Powers. There is no reason related to his performance as president why he should be fired. He has been an excellent president for the university as indicated by recognition from his peers, support from students and faculty, success in raising funds, and other accomplishments. A political firing hurts the image of the university and sets a precedent for involvement in university affairs by those who have motivations other than the best educational environment that we can offer to future residents of our state. It would be impossible to replace him with a candidate of his caliber and difficult to recruit top faculty. Please do not do lasting damage to the University of Texas reputation by firing someone who is obviously doing a good job.

Sincerely,

Steve Zach (UT graduate 1989)  
2714 Mystic Cove Lane  
Pearland, Texas 77584

**From:** [Strong, Pauline T](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** The University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 5:54:58 PM

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July 7, 2014

Paul L. Foster, Chairman  
Board of Regents  
The University of Texas System  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chairman Foster:

As a professor who has proudly served the University of Texas for over twenty years, I am writing to express my strong support for President Bill Powers. I have worked closely with him as a member of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Council, and have the greatest respect for him as a scholar, leader, administrator, and person. He has led the University of Texas with great distinction and integrity, accomplishing an impressive array of important achievements during his tenure as President.

As you know, President Powers has strong support from faculty, students, staff, and alumni. We know him as a dedicated and visionary public servant who has always acted in the best interests of the University. Forcing a nationally respected leader to resign precipitously would have a disastrous effect upon the reputation of the University of Texas at Austin, and upon the morale of faculty, students, and staff.

I urge the Board of Regents to allow President Powers to complete the upcoming academic year as he has suggested. A graceful, orderly transition is what he, the faculty, the students, and the alumni of the University of Texas deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Strong

Pauline Turner Strong  
Director, Humanities Institute  
Professor, Anthropology & Women's/Gender Studies  
The University of Texas at Austin

**From:** [Suzanne Penuel](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 11:03:30 AM

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Dear Regents,

It's time to let Powers do his job.

Thank you.

Suzanne Penuel, UT alumna

**From:** [Tarte N.](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** In support of President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:29:21 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster

I am appalled with the way the Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa and some of the regents have been dealing with President Bill Powers. As a proud resident of Texas and a graduate of UT, we all need to applaud how President Bill Powers has advanced UT nationally across multiple areas.

The entire nation of academics and administrators is watching this shameful drama unfold in the media and behind the scenes. What exactly has been President Bill Power's crime? That he may have given undue deference to certain recommended students for admission? Horrors! And I thought this was prevalent widely across the US, indeed the world!

Somehow the triple tax-payer funded (salaries and pensions) Governor Perry has seen this as unseemly? Please.

Politics aside, I plead with you and the other Regents to consider this:

**Will this drama help or damage UT? Will this help or damage Texas? Will this help or damage UT and Texas' efforts at recruiting top flight academics and administrators?**

I urge you to use your office to bring sense into Chancellor Cigarroa and some of the vindictive Regents.

Thanks you very much

Sincerely,

Nitin Tarte  
1307 Gray Hills Court  
Sugar Land, Texas 77479  
UT, Class of 1984

**From:** [Ted Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers ultimatum to resign  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:48:02 PM

---

July 7, 2014

Chairman Foster:

As an ardent supporter of the University of Texas it troubles me greatly to see all the negative news that has come out this past week about my school and Bill Powers. I want what is best for the University and the recent events is not what we should be seeing.

As the President of one of the most prestigious schools in our country, Bill Powers deserves more respect than a cheap political power play rolled out in the heart of the summer!

If UT is going to continue to attract the “best and the brightest” for the faculty, staff, and student body we need to “get a handle” on what is happening here and **quickly**.

I am looking for you to exert leadership here, and to do that I recommend working with Bill Powers instead of against Bill Powers.

These events need to be unwound soon, with the Board of Regents, Chancellor and state legislators taking the lead to defuse the “ultimatum of resignation”.

Ted V. Thomas, CPA

BBA – 1972

MBA – 1974

**From:** [Terry Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support President Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 8:08:21 PM

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University of Texas Board of Regents,

President Powers has been a great president, is the president of the AAU and terminating him would be terrible for the University and our national image. I strongly urge you to reject the efforts of Mr. Sandefer and Gov. Perry to harm the Universities' reputation and weaken its academic standing.

I am a lifelong donor and supporter of The University, currently serving on the Longhorn Foundation Advisory Council, Chancellor's Council and Littlefield Society . . . and have a strong love for my university. Please don't embarrass us!

Terry M. Wilson  
Class of 1962

**From:** [THOMAS J RYAN](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:48:59 PM

---

Paul Foster, Chair

V\July 7, 2014

I am writing in support of President Bill Powers in his quest to continue leading our wonderful University. He has distinguished himself as one of the premier college leaders in America over his tenure at The University of Texas. He's devoted his life to the advancement of education in our great state and deserves much support to continue this effort. He's recently been recognized for his leadership excellence by taking on the presidency of the Association of American Universities as an example. He brings honor, excellence, and credibility to Texas. What the Board and the Chancellor are doing is the opposite. It's inexcusable.

What's been described in the media as chaos amongst the Board of Trustees is an embarrassment to the University and to each Board member no matter the position taken regarding President Powers. I will include the governor as well for he's been behind this from the beginning – demonstrating an immature and galling behavior because he can't get his way. I only ask you to look at the governance at Texas A&M over the last decade; the turnover of Presidents and Chancellors; the political maneuvers of the Board members, not in the interest of University, but in selfish interests to preserve "power". The governor has been behind all of this as well...not a good record at support for education at either University.

Firing President Powers serves no constructive purpose, only subordinates the University's well being and reputation to those on the Board and in the governor's office who demonstrate little competence, zero leadership, and who couldn't get into the University today if you "pulled some strings" with anyone in the Admissions process. They are too incompetent. Giving the President an ultimatum in a public forum violates all sense of respect and decorum expected from the management of a world class university. Abominable behavior by those on the board and by the Chancellor, all of whom should know better.

I chide you to do what you can to end this and provide President Powers the support he needs to continue his mission – leader of the best university in the world!

Thank you – Hook 'em Horns

Tom Ryan, Class of '66  
13302 Coral Ridge Ct.  
Houston, TX 77069



**From:** [Thomas Kerr](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** William Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 1:10:11 PM

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As a multiple graduate of The University of Texas (BA – 1985, MBA 1987) and life member of the Texas Exes, I want the Board of Regents to know I strongly support William Powers and the job he has done as President of the University of Texas. The University has flourished and progressed under his leadership. The efforts to remove him appear part of an attack on The University of Texas and higher education in general fostered by the Office of the Governor and his political allies.

I am asking the Board of Regents to act in the best interest of both The University of Texas and State of Texas to cease this senseless attack. The State of Texas is best served by the continued pursuit of academic excellence at our institutions of higher learning. To attract the technology of the future and maintain our economy, the state must be served by universities that can attract leading edge scientists and support the needs of technology companies to come.

Our flagship schools, such as The University of Texas and Texas A&M University, must lead the way for the generations that follow. The recurring foolishness of the witch hunt against Mr. Powers does nothing but damage The University of Texas and ultimately Texas itself.

Thomas Kerr  
Kerr Wilson PC  
16800 Imperial Valley  
Suite 360  
Houston, Texas 77060  
Tel: 281.260.6304  
Fax: 281.260.6467

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**From:** [Thomas Schuette](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support for President Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 1:23:49 PM

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As an alumnus of the University of Texas at Austin and as a Texan, I cannot put into words my disgust at the ongoing crisis involving President Bill Powers. This is an embarrassment of the first order to an otherwise dignified and classy university system. Please do your utmost to end this circus, and please allow President Powers to exit on his own terms.

Regards,

Thomas Schuette

**From:** [Thomas Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:40:24 PM

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Gentlemen:

At a time when it needs him the most, outside political powers continue to force President Powers out of office. The legislature has acted through the House Select Committee on Transparency on reviewing Regent Wallace Hall's actions and has recommended to the Board not to take any "adverse" employment action. So who decided to force Bill out? And why now? Why don't you publically announce who made the decision and explain, in detail, why? I doubt that you can.

To give President Powers an ultimatum for all of his years at the University is totally improper! The Board is coming across as a bully. Your actions over the holiday weekend are what they call in Washington, "Chicago politics". The Board is too good for that.

The man has offered to work with the Board. Do what's right for the University and give him a chance.

THOMAS A. TAYLOR



TAYLOR/GARNER  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

AUSTIN DALLAS HOUSTON

TAYLOR & GARNER, PLLC  
4016 MARQUETTE  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75225  
DIRECT: 214.538.9794  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Tom Painter](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#); [Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Powers ouster  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 1:28:26 PM

---

Dear Sirs,

I've been involved as an alumnus for many years. I participate in several committees and have chaired a few of them, mostly in the McCombs school. I wish to express my dismay at the handling of Bill Powers transition. I believe President Powers has brought a lot to the University to advance its reputation as one of the premier universities in the land, if not the world. His visibility within the national education community and his roles on various boards speak to his contributions and the respect he garners.

While I am no fan of what I'd call extreme positions advocated by Governor Perry and several regents and influential players as they relate to reform, I appreciate the dialog and find that there are several areas which could benefit from the attention. That said, President Powers' opposition to the dramatic upheaval that was advocated, and it seems partially implemented at A&M, had my support. I understand that A&M suffered for the changes and lost national standing. I'm glad that UT didn't suffer the same fate and I attribute much of that to President Powers' efforts. In that, I think that he did the University a great service.

You all know the effort that he has put in relative to fundraising and bringing a medical school in. The list goes on.

I hate to see such a strong advocate for the University leave and would encourage a cooperative dialog that might allow us to continue to benefit from his leadership and contributions. If the time has come for a transition, I would expect more professionalism than has been displayed by the governing bodies. This smacks of the same shoddy treatment that was given to Mack Brown. While I had stronger support for his exit, the way in which it occurred lacked the respect that Mack was due. I realize the irony of the comparison in that President Powers played some role in Browns' exit, but that doesn't mean it should be repeated. It reflects badly on the University and impacts our ability to draw top talent and to garner respect.

Please reconsider exiting President Powers...and if that's no longer an option, treat a man who has had such profound impact with more respect.

Thank you for your consideration

Tom Painter  
UT'83

**From:** [Tom Ward](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Powers Resignation  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:10:27 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster,

I hope that you as Chair will prevail upon the members to do the decent thing and allow President Powers to complete University of Texas business during the 2014/15 term and retire in June 2015. This saga should end gently without additional turmoil.

With respect,

James T Ward

**From:** [Townsend](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Support Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:54:19 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster,

I am appalled that you would even consider dismissing Bill Powers, especially since the Legislature has asked that you not do that while they are investigating Regent Hall. Peyton and I have been involved with The University for 35 years, serving on multiple advisory councils and the executive committee of the Chancellor's Council. Bill is the best President we have ever had. He has worked tirelessly with the Legislature to modify the Top 10% Law to allow more flexibility in admissions. The University is losing faculty over this mess. It would be a travesty to damage the University any further. History will not view you or the Chancellor in a very good light if you do not allow our President to serve through the Legislative session.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Townsend

**From:** [Trisha Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** the issue with Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 6:28:07 PM

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I want you to know , that I am appalled about what I have been reading about demanding resignation of Bill Powers .. If this really happens , I think that we will lose a lot of money in endowments , etc . It is so embarrassing , and I am not proud of my University !

Trisha Wilson

Outstanding Alumni of UT ..

**From:** [UT System Public Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:44:04 PM

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From: feedback@utsystem.edu On Behalf Of jed skeete  
Sent: Sunday, July 06, 2014 12:33:44 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: UT System Public Affairs  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations

Submitted on Sunday, July 6, 2014 - 12:33 Submitted by anonymous user: [198.147.139.133]  
Submitted values are:

Name: jed skeete  
Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
Message: I support the Board of Regents in shaking things up. The University of Texas needs to deliver the best affordable education to the taxpayers of TEXAS while being totally transparent. The academic staff needs to be held accountable for their performance like the majority of taxpayers who fund their salaries.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<http://content.utsystem.edu/node/1031/submission/7971>



**From:** [UT System Public Affairs](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:40:46 PM

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From: feedback@utsystem.edu On Behalf Of Archie A. Alexander, MD, JD, LLM  
Sent: Sunday, July 06, 2014 11:47:57 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: UT System Public Affairs  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations

Submitted on Sunday, July 6, 2014 - 23:47 Submitted by anonymous user: [198.147.139.133]  
Submitted values are:

Name: Archie A. Alexander, MD, JD, LLM  
Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
Message:  
Dear Members of the Board of Regents:

I am writing to express my disappointment and outrage with members of the Board of Regents and its inability to see the value of Pres. Powers. I graduated from UT in 1971 and UTMB in 1976. I have taught medicine and law here and abroad. I have seen UT grow, but under Powers, UT has done very well. Perhaps, that is the problem for many including one TAM graduate who holds high office in Texas. I can understand why some want him gone. Frustration is a powerful motivator, especially for the politically challenged.

As faculty member of the Faculty of Law at Thammasat University and AI in health law and ethics in the Dept. of Health Admin. at LSU-Shreveport, I am very aware of the importance of solid leadership, especially the kind Pres. Powers has exhibited. What I cannot understand is why several of the Regents seem so clueless to his value as leader. Everyone knows it. Unfortunately, there are some who cannot or will not accept it. While I am straining to avoid on an Ad Hominem attack on the Regents, I do not see its actions as showing the same kind of restraint. To bemoan the fact that the University's admissions process can be subject to political influence seems odd to me. I find the notion that admissions is or should be devoid of politics as bizarre. It is almost detached from reality given the realities of our world. Sorry, I am not buying for one minute the argument that admissions should be totally devoid of political influence--law or no law. It is not possible nor is it reasonable or practical.

As far as Regent Hall's record search goes, I am a lawyer admitted to practice law in Texas, and I find his action strange based on my understanding of civil discovery in Texas or any discovery process I know.

Based on what I know from published reports, I cannot see how he was performing his fiduciary duties by accessing as student records, regardless of the number. His refusal to appear before the Committee without a subpoena gives me pause for concern when he could certainly use it as opportunity to vindicate himself. Are his actions demonstrating leadership or stewardship? I do not believe they are.

I do not support any action by the Board to terminate Pres. Powers now or in the future. Pres. Powers should remain as UT President and be left alone to do his job. Unless you can show clear and convincing evidence of wrongdoing on his part, then I say leave the man to do his work.

Shame on you!

Archie A. Alexander, MD, JD, LLM  
Foreign Lecturer in Law  
International Affairs Liaison  
Faculty of Law, Thammasat University Thailand Adj. Inst. (Health Law and Ethics) LSU - Shreveport

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<http://content.utsystem.edu/node/1031/submission/8326>

**From:** [UT System Public Affairs](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:39:11 PM

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From: feedback@utsystem.edu On Behalf Of Helen Moroney Williams  
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2014 10:21:41 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: UT System Public Affairs  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations

Submitted on Monday, July 7, 2014 - 10:21 Submitted by anonymous user: [198.147.139.133]  
Submitted values are:

Name: Helen Moroney Williams  
Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
Message:

I am writing to express my support for President Bill Powers and to ask the members of the Board of Regents to carefully consider their actions in the coming days.

I agree with Kay Bailey Hutchison and Charles Matthews that forcing out President Powers would be a travesty for the University. This is simply not the way we should conduct business, and it is disappointing to see a great leader and a fine man treated this way.

It is in the best interest of the University of Texas and its future that the Board of Regents pursue a constructive working relationship with the University's president and that its members treat all members of the administrative team with dignity and respect. If we want to continue attracting top-caliber leaders, we must show them that the University of Texas is a place where they will be treated fairly and will enjoy a professional and constructive relationship with the University's governing body.

Please pass my message along to the Board of Regents.

Many thanks,

Helen Moroney Williams  
Class of 1986

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<http://content.utsystem.edu/node/1031/submission/8466>

**From:** [UT System Public Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:38:32 PM

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From: feedback@utsystem.edu On Behalf Of Lou Bauman  
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2014 11:34:06 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: UT System Public Affairs  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations

Submitted on Monday, July 7, 2014 - 11:34 Submitted by anonymous user: [198.147.139.133]  
Submitted values are:

Name: Lou Bauman  
Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
Message: To the Regents: Stop micro managing the university; let the administrators do their job. This political mess is damaging the great University of Texas. Bill Powers has been a good leader.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<http://content.utsystem.edu/node/1031/submission/8511>

**From:** [UT System Public Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:36:53 PM

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From: feedback@utsystem.edu On Behalf Of Debra Porter  
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2014 11:16:51 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: UT System Public Affairs  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations

Submitted on Monday, July 7, 2014 - 23:16 Submitted by anonymous user: [198.147.139.133]  
Submitted values are:

Name: Debra Porter  
Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
Message:  
Board of Regents  
The University of Texas  
Austin, Texas

Re: President Bill Powers

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

It is much to my dismay that once again this Board and the concerned citizens of Texas are addressing the presidency of Bill Powers. He has served our University with honor and dignity.

I was fortunate enough to attend the University of Texas, and my children were, as well.

Bill Powers has my support, and I thank him for his unflagging efforts on behalf of The University of Texas.

Debra Porter

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<http://content.utsystem.edu/node/1031/submission/8836>

**From:** [UT System Public Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:35:54 PM

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From: feedback@utsystem.edu On Behalf Of Gary Bushell  
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2014 10:21:23 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: UT System Public Affairs  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations

Submitted on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 - 10:21 Submitted by anonymous user: [198.147.139.133]  
Submitted values are:

Name: Gary Bushell  
Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
Message: I urge the Board of Regents to work with President Bill Powers as he serves as President of our flagship UT campus. President Powers has shown his skill and success in fundraising for the university, as well as many other important leadership issues. As an alum and member of an advisory council for UT, I have seen President Powers' knowledge and acumen work positively for UT Austin.  
Gary Bushell

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<http://content.utsystem.edu/node/1031/submission/9001>

**From:** [UT System Public Affairs](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:33:46 PM

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From: feedback@utsystem.edu On Behalf Of Dustin Summy  
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2014 12:27:03 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: UT System Public Affairs  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations

Submitted on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 - 12:27 Submitted by anonymous user: [198.147.139.133]  
Submitted values are:

Name: Dustin Summy  
Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Inquires for the UT System News and Public Relations  
Message:  
To the Board of Regents:

Please stop trying to dismantle one of the nation's best institutions. The values and insights gained in the study of science and the arts are the most prominent expressions of precisely what is most redeeming in humanity; they are what makes existence into living. You have been given a responsibility to shepherd our greatest instrument for advancing these principles. Don't do the easy thing and give shortsighted people a fleeting boon at the cost of all of our futures. If some of you can't understand the value of these things, then it is your loss. Don't let it be all of ours.

I support the University of Texas and its president, Bill Powers, in their mission to remain an elite public institution of higher learning, research, and art.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<http://content.utsystem.edu/node/1031/submission/9036>

**From:** [Wendelyn Dickson](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Firing of President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 3:18:59 PM

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Dear Sirs,

I wish to object in the strongest terms the attempt to fire University of Texas President, Bill Powers.

I have followed the developments in higher education during the terms of Governor Rick Perry. His attempts to politicize the Boards of Regents at all major Texas Universities has been a troubling trend. There is ample evidence to support my assertions. I will not elaborate here. To date, Texas A&M University has been the biggest loser in Perry's attempts to turn higher education into diploma mills for the purpose of making money and producing seed beds for businesses that benefit his influential friends and donors. A once proud university has seen its academic reputation drop in well-respected rankings of higher education quality.

I completely support the fact that Texas needs cost-effective places for its students to get degrees. I believe Texas has many fine universities from which to choose. The University of Texas and Texas A&M were developed to be flagship universities of the highest quality. Every Texas student does not have an inherent "right" to attend either one. Both should be destinations for the best and brightest students in Texas to acquire the finest education that money can buy. Neither flagship university should be relegated to becoming a diploma mill.

The investigation of Bill Powers using his influence to admit unqualified students to the University of Texas Law School is dubious at best. Allow the investigation to go forward unimpeded by the political maneuverings of the UT Board of Regents.

If influence was used at UT to admit influential donors or families children, you can be very sure that the same thing has happened at Texas A&M, Baylor, Rice, etc. I am not here to condone the practice, but be very careful that you do not use a standard at UT for political purposes that is not being used at every other Texas university.

There is an odor about this sudden push to fire Bill Powers. It does not have the smell of honesty and discretion. Being members of the UT Board of Regents carries an obligation, not just to the governor who appointed each of you, but to the graduates who hold degrees from The University of Texas as well as the citizens of the state of Texas. Bill Powers record stands on its own. He is a highly regarded university college administrator.

Please know that your actions will become your legacy. Each of your names will be forever associated with your actions in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Wendelyn Dickson (nee Love)  
2670 Trellis Green Circle  
Henrico, VA 23233

Graduated from the University of Texas in spring 1967



BS in Education

Served as a Texas teacher for 27 years.

Resided in Texas from birth to 2010.

Currently living in Richmond, VA near children and grandchildren.

Still a proud TEXAN at heart living in the state that produced Sam Houston.

**From:** [Wicha, Simone J](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Cc:** [Enniss, Stephen](#)  
**Subject:** letter on behalf of the Blanton and Ransom Center  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:54:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [Foster Wicha Enniss 140708.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Dear Chairman Foster,

Please find attached a letter Steve Enniss and I drafted for the consideration of the Regents. A hard copy will be arriving at the Board of Regents office shortly, but I am sending it as an attachment in advance since it pertains to the meeting this Thursday. Please let me know if you have any trouble opening the document.

Respectfully yours,  
Simone

---

Simone J. Wicha  
Director  
Blanton Museum of Art  
The University of Texas at Austin  
512.471.9192

<http://www.blantonmuseum.org>

**From:** [Wiginton, Scott](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#); [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Bill Powers  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 3:33:08 PM


---

I am sending this e mail to let you know that I strongly support UT President Bill Powers.

Scott Wiginton

Scott Wiginton  
*Senior Vice President - Corporate Banking*

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One Riverway, Suite 2100  
Houston, TX 77056  
832.308.7065 office  
832.308.7047 fax  


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If you are not the addressee and have received this email in error, please notify me immediately. This email is confidential and may contain privileged or proprietary information that is unlawful for you to read, copy, distribute, disclose or otherwise use in any way.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 11:34:52 AM

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TO REMOVE DR. POWERS FROM THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF U. T. IS A TRAVESTY TO THE UNIVERSITY AND THE STATE . HE HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB AND HIS LOSS WILL BE HARMFUL AND WILL APPEAR TO LOOK POLITICAL AND HARMFUL TO THE STATE  
JSW

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 4:39:04 PM

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS NEEDS PRESIDENT POWERS AND IT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO  
THE UNIVERSITY AND THE STATE TO DISCHARGE HIM .HE HAS DONE A GREAT JOB IN  
KEEPING THE UNIVERSITY AS A FIRST CLASS INSTITUTION WITH . FIRST CLASS FACULTY  
,AND STUDENTS

**From:** [Winston Duke](#)  
**To:** [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us); [dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us); [eric.hohnson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:eric.hohnson@house.state.tx.us);  
[lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us); [trey.martinez@house.state.tx.us](mailto:trey.martinez@house.state.tx.us); [charles.perry@house.state.tx.us](mailto:charles.perry@house.state.tx.us);  
[four.price@house.state.tx.us](mailto:four.price@house.state.tx.us); [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** UT, Chancellor, Regents, Legislature, and Bill Powers  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 7:52:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [To Committee Members.docx](#)

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Attached is a note of support for the legislature, and encouragement to use all means to have the Chancellor and Regents hold off their present courses of action.

Please note I sent a separate and diffe note to the Chancellor, but it appears to have been lost in the system.

Winston Duke  
936-577-2342

To Committee Members:

I have previously written members of the transparency committee about the ongoing issue with the Board, and support the legislature wholeheartedly in their endeavor. I encourage the legislature to stand firm on deciding the direction of higher education for the past seven years, culminating in where we are today with the threat against President Powers.

Eventually the truth will come out, it certainly serves no purpose or benefit for the State or any University, to make a pre-emptive move, and certainly against legislative direct preferences and orders.

Please take all necessary action to stop such action against Powers at present, certainly when a timeline is not being considered, and before investigations are complete, and hold all those accountable, whether they are members of the Regents, Administration, or legislative and executive branches.

I am aware of surveys conducted prior to A&M's Chancellor's "resignation" in preparation for a behind the scenes change in higher education, and I know there are many other factors involved.

The fight may be tougher at UT, but the issue is a matter of public debate. I would like to encourage you to ensure the reputation and processes are followed and ensure that the State and educational institutions stand tall and are looked up to by the rest of the country. That certainly is not the case at the present time.

Sincerely,

Winston Duke

Huntsville, Texas

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Winston Duke.

**From:** [Woodruff, Paul B](#)  
**To:** [Chancellor](#)  
**Cc:** [Leslie Cedar](#); [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** President Bill Powers  
**Date:** Friday, July 04, 2014 7:11:19 PM  
**Importance:** Low

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Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,

I have served the University of Texas at Austin since 1973. During that time I have seen presidents come and go; during the last 25 years I have worked directly with all of them. The University has never in my time (or, I believe, in any time) had a more effective president than Bill Powers. He has been a brilliantly successful agent of change, putting our university well ahead of almost all others in the reform of undergraduate education. Under his leadership, UT has set up structures for improving graduation rates that are the envy of all the state universities I know. At the same time, he has advanced the academic reputation of the University and been prodigiously successful as a fundraiser.

His reputation is solid nationwide. If the rumor is true that you are preparing to fire him, we will all conclude that you have put politics ahead of good policy. I am not aware of any nonpolitical reasons you might have for taking this step. The University has lost other fine presidents for bad reasons. Each time that happened (to Rainey, to Spur), the reputation of the University has suffered, and along with it the ability of the University to attract top talent has declined for years.

I hope the rumor is false, and that you will continue to support Bill Powers as president of the University.

Paul Woodruff

Darrell K. Royal Regents Professor in Ethics and American Society

Former Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies



**From:** [Woods, Marjorie C](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** support for President Powers  
**Date:** Saturday, July 05, 2014 4:55:17 PM

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To the members of the Board of Regents:

The complicated relationships between the members of the Board of Regents and President Powers over the past months have been distracting for all involved. I understand the concerns of those who wonder if resources are being used in the best possible way, especially when academic experience and achievement are often hard to measure and seemingly opaque.

But I respectfully request that President Powers remain in his position as the leader of our campus. What is particularly upsetting about the possibility of President Powers's possible removal or forced early resignation is that he has been so important in keeping up the energy and positive movement within the University of Texas at Austin, among faculty certainly but also students and staff, in a period of serious financial retrenchment and constricting material forms of support. Morale at the University of Texas is as high as I remember in my 23 years here as a faculty member (and in great contrast with the other flagship universities at other large state systems like the University of California). Allowing President Powers to keep directing the University of Texas at Austin for at least another year would be an invaluable gift to those of us who work so hard for the University and its students.

Very sincerely yours,  
Marjorie Curry Woods

Blumberg Centennial Professor of English  
Professor of Comparative Literature  
University Distinguished Teaching Professor  
Department of English  
208 West 21st St. STOP B5000  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX 78712

Dept. phone: 512-471-4991

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/english/faculty/woodsmc>

<http://www.ohiostatepress.org/Books/Book%20Pages/Woods%20Classroom.html>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g\\_dEN4D-a7I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_dEN4D-a7I)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPKoVr1gHRc>

**From:** [Yvonne](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Subject:** Pres Bill Powers Stays!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:37:44 PM

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Board Members:

First of all, I am proud to be an alum, '79, BA, Journalism, and an ROTC cadet at UT then , as well as a retired US Army LTC. After traveling the world in service to our country for 20 years, I found myself back in Texas and at last (2010) back in Austin.

I am not so proud, however, to see how the personnel actions relating to the University's President Powers are being handled. Talk about unprofessional, that's what this "leak" and back and forth are.

The politics of this action, seemingly stemming from Perry regent appointee Wallace Hall, is seedy, suspicious and intolerable, at best. If you can't see this for what it is, then perhaps you should not be on The University of Texas Board of Regents either. The utmost call to your duty should be to do what is best for our university system. That, you are failing at, at this time.

The Hall investigation needs to be completed and publicized. Transparency is always the best. Realizing the obvious political influence coming from, it seems , one direction, (governor's office) the public needs to know the truth behind these appointments and their intents, and go from there. Perhaps the Texas Governor should not be the appointing authority after all. Change it through legislation.

The Chancellor is on his way out. Let him go. Let someone else handle this investigation and the President Powers decision.

This university flagship is my alma mater. I hate seeing it dragged through mud unnecessarily. The potential damage is irreversible. Try to see past your noses and beyond your self promotion.

Many thanks. Please be bold and stand up for what is right and for the right reasons.

V/R

Yvonne (Rose) Beatty  
Class of 1979  
BA, Journalism  
300 Bowie St. #2601  
Austin TX. 78703

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [hvac.info@mail.house.gov](mailto:hvac.info@mail.house.gov)  
**Cc:** [Blaine.Fulmer@mail.house.gov](mailto:Blaine.Fulmer@mail.house.gov); [Board of Regents](#); [Cigarroa, Francisco](#); [Powers, William - UT Austin](#); [carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us); [dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FERPA [Violations: UT-Austin]: Follow-up\_Fwd: Your Most Recent Open Recrods Request  
**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2014 7:30:47 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[REDACTED]  
[President Powers \(Redress Appointment Request 7May2010\) To Chairman Jeff Miller-10Jul2014-730am\\_zcj.mp3](#)  
[UT-Austin FERPA Investigation Request \(To Congressman Jeff Miller House VA Chair\) 10Jul2014-730am\\_ZCJoseph.pdf](#)  
[Manuscript U.S. Constitution v. UT-Austin FERPA Fight \(To Chairman Jeff Miller Cc Congressman Michael McCaul\) 10Jul2014-730am\\_zcj.pdf](#)  
[3 State Action UT-Austin \(UT Regent Wallace Hall's Attorney \(Stephen Ryan\) 21May2014-915am\\_zcj.pdf](#)

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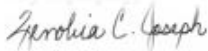
Memorandum for Chairman Jeff Miller, House Veterans' Affairs Committee 335 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515  
([hvac.info@mail.house.gov](mailto:hvac.info@mail.house.gov)); Cc: Congressman Michael McCaul (c/o Blaine Fulmer, [Blaine.Fulmer@mail.house.gov](mailto:Blaine.Fulmer@mail.house.gov))

Subject: Veteran's Request for FERPA Violations Investigation of UT-Austin per Arbitrary 3.9 GPA PhD Program Termination

1. Purpose: It's time for President William C. Powers, Jr. (Navy veteran) to resign from The University of Texas at Austin now—not after the 84th Texas Legislature in 2015 as approved yesterday by U.T. System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D. <!--[if !supportFootnotes]-->[1]<!--[endif]--> “Just because someone has an M.D. doesn't mean they have ethics,” noted Katherine Mitchell, M.D. during the House Veterans' Affairs Whistleblower Hearing on July 8, 2014. Similar to unethical practices by senior VA leaders, I write to share the unethical manner in which Cigarroa, Powers, and state actors whose salaries exceed \$1M circumvented privacy laws from 2009 to 2014 and refused to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). To improve veterans' educational opportunities from Bachelor's to PhD degrees, I request Congress enforce funding sanctions against UT-Austin and investigate Ricky Norment's mishandling of this matter in the U.S. Department of Education's Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO). See attached manuscript under review entitled, “U.S. Constitution v. UT-Austin: A Veteran's Autoethnographic FERPA Fight.”

2. Closing: Thanks for your commitment to veterans. Please see attached PDFs for text in its entirety. ~Have a peaceful day.

Very respectfully,



Zenobia C. Joseph

<!--[endif]-->  
<!--[if !supportFootnotes]-->[1]<!--[endif]--> KVUE (2014, July 9). UT president to step down in 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.kvue.com/story/news/local/2014/07/09/provost-powers-president/12419875/>

Cc:  
Congressman Michael McCaul (c/o Blaine.Fulmer@mail.house.gov)  
UT System Board of Regents (bor@utsystem.edu)  
Francisco G. Cigarroa, UT System Chancellor (fcigarroa@utsystem.edu)  
William C. Powers, Jr., President, UT-Austin (president@po.utexas.edu); Attch: May 7, 2010 audio  
Carol Alvarado, Texas Legislature Transparency Co-Chair (carol.alvarado@house.state.tx.us)  
Dan Flynn, Texas Legislature Transparency Co-Chair (dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us)  
Trey Martinez Fischer, Transparency Committee Member [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: zcjsph <[REDACTED]>  
To: blaine.fulmer <[blaine.fulmer@mail.house.gov](mailto:blaine.fulmer@mail.house.gov)>  
Sent: Wed, Jun 4, 2014 10:32 am  
Subject: Fwd: FERPA: Follow-up\_Fwd: Your Most Recent Open Recrods Request

**To: Blaine Fulmer**  
Western District Field Director  
Congressman McCaul

**FERPA Follow-up:** The University of Texas still won't release my un-redacted education record in its entirety in accord with FERPA. Please urge Congressman Michael McCaul to investigate this matter and enforce funding sanctions, accordingly. This FERPA issue aligns with his two hour February 5, 2014 H.R.

3696 Cybersecurity Hearing (personally identifiable information). ~Thanks.

Very respectfully,

Zenobia C. Joseph

-----Original Message-----

From: zcjsph <[REDACTED]>

To: rasalazar <[rasalazar@utsystem.edu](mailto:rasalazar@utsystem.edu)>

Cc: public.information <[public.information@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:public.information@texasattorneygeneral.gov)>; Carol.Alvarado <[Carol.Alvarado@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Carol.Alvarado@house.state.tx.us)>; dan.flynn <[dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us)>; trey.martinez.fischer <[trey.martinez.fischer@house.state.tx.us](mailto:trey.martinez.fischer@house.state.tx.us)>; tmf <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wed, Jun 4, 2014 8:01 am

Subject: FERPA: Follow-up\_Fwd: Your Most Recent Open Recrods Request

**To: Raquel Salazar**

University of Texas System

Public Information Coordinator

General Law Section <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/general/homepage.htm>

Thanks for the update.

**Pending: Correct and Re-send PDF.** Please request Ana Vieira (Assistant Attorney General II) correct my last name in the body of the attached Office of the Attorney General Withdrawal Letter dated June 3, 2014 that you e-mailed me yesterday (Tuesday, June 3, 2014/4:32 PM, below). The last name "Johnson" appears on page 1 of the letter. My last name is "Joseph" -- correctly noted on the last page as requestor.

- Typo: As an aside, "Recrods" is misspelled in the Subject Line and should be "Records." ~Thanks.

Very respectfully,

Zenobia C. Joseph

Copy Furnished: Ana Vieira

**Title** Asst Attorney General II

**Agency** State of Texas

**Department** Office of The Attorney General

**Gender** Female

**Hire Date** 01/12/2009

**Salary** **\$53,000**

**Current as of** February 27, 2013

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Original Message-----

From: Salazar, Raquel <[rasalazar@utsystem.edu](mailto:rasalazar@utsystem.edu)>

To: zcjsph <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tue, Jun 3, 2014 4:32 pm

Subject: RE: Your Most Recent Open Recrods Request

Dear Ms. Joseph,

Attached please find correspondence filed with the Attorney General's Office [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Raquel Salazar

**From:** [Zogg, John](#)  
**To:** [Board of Regents](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 9:41:01 AM

---

I am finally writing regarding the handling of President Powers. I am very embarrassed for my great University due the horrible public handling of President Powers. I am very proud of UT and the work President Powers has done. I have met with him and seen him work behind the scenes. He deserves much better than we are giving him. Please do the right thing and let him stay. This should not be a political issue. Thank you



**JOHN L. ZOGG, JR.**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
200 CRESCENT COURT, SUITE 250  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201  
**214.880.4525** (DIRECT)

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 9, 2014 at 10:39:58 AM CDT  
**To:** [REDACTED] Alexandra Chilton  
[REDACTED] > [REDACTED] Brenda  
Pejovich [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Mira Anderson [REDACTED] >,  
[REDACTED] net>,  
**Subject:** to [REDACTED]  
**Reply-To:** [REDACTED]

With respect to discussion of any issue, the point I used to literally drill into my students is the difference between enumerating verifiable facts and character assassination. The former sets the stage for civil discussion of any social issue. The latter is a cheap escape from the meaningful discussion of that issue.

I do not know what the future of UT is going to be. I am not even sure how much I care to think about UT. There is a much better place not far from Austin. However, as a scholar who spent life educating people, I do get upset when people avoid discussion of issues and resort to character assassination. Link below is a classic case. In his article, Mr. Miller enumerates the facts that might or might not be true--that is what discussion should be about. Comments below Mr Miller's article are just the opposite. He is "an idiot", period. No mention of the facts he enumerated, and no argument showing that his facts are wrong. No, Miller is an idiot simply because he is against something that his opposition likes. Verifiable arguments are merely a nuisance interfering with

the proclaimed truth. If I had a drink or two and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] were not around I would venture to say that those  
comments are typical of tea-sippers.

here is link


<http://tribtalk.org/2014/07/07/powers-must-go/>

It is also funny to read comments about Perry. We are told  
that he is also an idiot who Texas does not need. Well. he was  
elected three times by Texans, wasn't he? If so, real idiot  
must be the people of Texas who reside outside the city of  
Austin.

[REDACTED]

*"Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."*



- 
- > Just saw this from a fellow Castilian UT alum. Exciting times in Austin? And just to make sure you're ready for Tucson, it'll be 100 here on Sat!
  - > Our captain class is having breakfast with Longhorn CEO Gary Kelly in the morning.
  - > Hook Em Horns!
  - > David
  - >



Texas Exes

Yesterday at 6:07 PM · Edited ·

The resign-or-be-fired ultimatum given to UT President Bill Powers has set off a powder keg of responses, articles, and letters. Here's what we know —and what we don't—about the "July 4th coup":

<http://txex.es/1th5SGn>



Like Comment Share

304 people like this.



Ann Henderson Shopoff

What I don't understand is Bill Powers has been asked to resign with no credible evidence that he has done wrong, yet Wallace Hall still sits on the Board of Regents with what appears to be credible evidence that he has violated the privacy of students-- a criminal offense. What am I missing here?

Yesterday at 6:23 PM · Like · 45 · Reply



Patrick Harvill Replied · 1 Reply

This is shameful behavior and reflects poorly on the entire University community. IF President Powers is no longer suitable to/for our community, why not go through the proper channels to find a replacement? The resign or be fired ultimatum - and before a holiday weekend - is atrocious. He deserves better, and quite frankly so do those of us who financially back the University.

Yesterday at 6:35 PM · Like · 42 · Reply

Write a comment...

Post

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 9, 2014 at 5:49:41 PM CDT  
**To:** Brenda Pejovich [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: President of U. of Texas Flagship Will Stay On Until June  
**Reply-To:** [REDACTED]

John really cares. Explain it to him if you feel like

[REDACTED]

*"Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."*

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** John Moore <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2014 4:12 PM  
**Subject:** President of U. of Texas Flagship Will Stay On Until June

[REDACTED] Is this a "victory" for Powers or for the Regents? I thought Powers was insisting on staying until October. In any case, it vindicates the regent who fought the case and is a win for the authority of the Regents. Or so I read it.

<http://shar.es/N2lEr>

William C. Powers Jr., president of the University of Texas at Austin, will remain in his post until June 2, 2015, according to a statement from the system's chancellor, Francisco G. Cigarroa. The ...

This message was sent using ShareThis (<http://www.sharethis.com>)

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 9, 2014 at 11:51:45 AM CDT  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] >, Brenda Pejovich [REDACTED]

**Subject: Re: to** [REDACTED]

I understand your position, especially after a career of hearing 'Aggie' and 'idiot' so often used interchangeably.

In truth, well said and good for us to remember when in discussions.

Johnny  
*Keep America from becoming like Europe. Keep Texas from becoming like America.*

On Jul 9, 2014, at 9:39 AM, [REDACTED]  
wrote:

With respect to discussion of any issue, the point I used to literally drill into my students is the difference between enumerating verifiable facts and character assassination. The former sets the stage for civil discussion of any social issue. The latter is a cheap escape from the meaningful discussion of that issue.

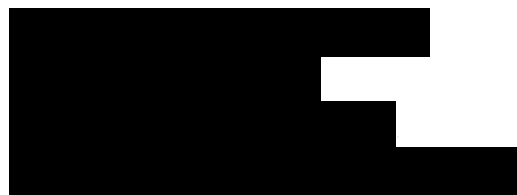
I do not know what the future of UT is going to be. I am not even sure how much I care to think about UT. There is a much better place not far from Austin. However, as a scholar who spent life educating people, I do get upset when people avoid discussion of issues and resort to character assassination. Link

below is a classic case. In his article, Mr. Miller enumerates the facts that might or might not be true- -that is what discussion should be about. Comments below Mr Miller's article are just the opposite. He is "an idiot", period. No mention of the facts he enumerated, and no argument showing that his facts are wrong. No, Miller is an idiot simply because he is against something that his opposition likes. Verifiable arguments are merely a nuisance interfering with the proclaimed truth. If I had a drink or two and [REDACTED] were not around I would venture to say that those comments are typical of tea-sippers.

here is link

<http://tribtalk.org/2014/07/07/powers-must-go/>

It is also funny to read comments about Perry. We are told that he is also an idiot who Texas does not need. Well. he was elected three times by Texans, wasn't he? If so, real idiot must be the people of Texas who reside outside the city of Austin.



*"Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."*

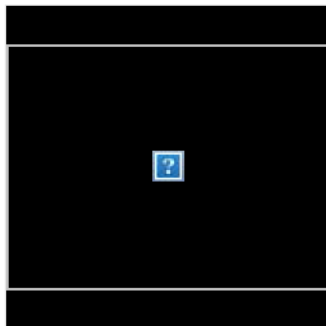
[REDACTED]

**From:** John Fund <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 6, 2014 at 9:21:04 AM CDT  
**To:** Brenda Pejovich <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** I assume you saw this article...wow  
**Reply-To:** John Fund <[REDACTED]>

fyi

may I call you today

[Sources: Whistleblower Forcing Out UT President](#)



## Sources: Whistleblower Forcing Out UT President

AUSTIN, Texas--Two highly placed sources say University of Texas president Bill Powers has been given a choice: resign by the end of the day July 4, or be fired nex...

View on [www.breitbart.com](http://www.breitbart.com)

Preview by Yahoo

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 7, 2014 at 9:52:39 AM CDT  
**To:** Brenda Pejovich [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** Fw: In 'July 4 Coup' at U. of Texas, Flagship's Chief Is Asked to Resign  
**Reply-To:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*"Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."*

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** John Moore <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2014 9:26 AM  
**Subject:** In 'July 4 Coup' at U. of Texas, Flagship's Chief Is Asked to Resign

[REDACTED] Things are moving along at UT. As always, the left try to blame politics, not the malfeasance of the president. I especially liked the way the faculty say that this is dangerous -- of course, it's dangerous to faculty control of the university.

<http://shar.es/NatOS>

The latest bid to oust the Austin campus's president came from the system chancellor. It drew quick rebukes as political interference.

This message was sent using ShareThis (<http://www.sharethis.com>)

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 4, 2014 at 3:59:48 PM CDT  
**To:** Brenda Pejovich [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** Fw:  
**Reply-To:** [REDACTED]

read last sentence

[REDACTED]

*"Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."*

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** John Moore [REDACTED] >  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 4, 2014 2:58 PM  
**Subject:** RE:

[REDACTED]

And Happy 4th to you. Here are a couple of lines from Thomas Paine that are perfect for our government today: "...government even in its best state is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one; for when we suffer, or are exposed to the same miseries by a government, which we might expect in a country without government, our calamity is heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer." Despite that, which is only too true under Obama, I still have some optimism about the future.

Sue and I saw Dinesh d'Sousa's new movie "America" yesterday. It's not perfect, but it's well worth seeing, especially the part linking Obama to Alinsky and Ayres. Did you see Megyn Kelly's long interview with Ayers? Good job of exposing him for what he is, even though he lied constantly in the interview. But the section in the movie about Alinsky is even more damning. Obama really is following Alinsky's playbook, especially in deliberately trying to



polarize the nation. I hope Dinesh has good bodyguards.

Good news about Powers. Shows what a courageous regent who takes his job seriously can accomplish.

Cheers,

John

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 04, 2014 3:43 PM  
**To:** Allan Meltzer; henry manne; John Moore; Bridgett Wagner; jerry jordan; Robert Hudspeth  
**Subject:**

Happy the 4th of July

and see this

<http://www.breitbart.com/breitbart-texas>



*"Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."*

**From:** [Charlie Cooper](#)  
**To:** [Foster, Paul](#)  
**Cc:** [Powers, William - UT Austin](#); [Chancellor](#); [Reyes, Pedro](#)  
**Subject:** Please Protect The University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:36:39 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster,

I write to you with both admiration and hope. When you were appointed as Chairman of the UT Board of Regents, I believed that your leadership would prove to have a calming effect on the unrest between the Board and The University of Texas at Austin leadership. It was widely reported that this was your intention. It would be a truly great accomplishment for you to calm the hostility that exists, and I am still optimistic that you'll be able to do so. I can only hope that this is something you still feel is worthwhile and within reach.

As I am sure you know, President Bill Powers has the overwhelming support of the University community—its students, faculty and alumni. He also seems to have the bipartisan support of the Legislature. In light of this overwhelming support, as well as the state- and nation-wide attention being paid to the matter of his tenure, it cannot be helpful to the governance, stature or any interest of the University to allow President Powers' public termination. I trust that you are already taking this factor into consideration in your determination and vote on the matter. But I felt it would be worthwhile to write to you about it anyway with the knowledge that my email is not the only one you'll receive this week—please note that the University community feels strongly enough in its commitment to President Powers to take time to be heard and involved in the decision about his continued leadership. This kind of civic participation is (unfortunately) rare, and when it occurs it deserves special attention. Please give this consensus gentium the weight it deserves and allow President Powers to continue his service to the University as its President.

If President Powers is removed in spite of the great support he enjoys, it will not serve your objective of improving the Board's relationship with University leadership (or with the Legislature). Firing President Powers will undoubtedly cause a social media uproar, and the traditional media will also cover it as a politically and personally motivated coup d'état. Faculty at the University will voice concern and umbrage, and attracting and retaining the brightest academic stars—the engines of our University—will become more difficult. Students and alumni will feel ignored, and this will make it more difficult for any new leadership to engage and fundraise with the alumni community. Finally, the Legislature seems likely to attempt to assert some additional authority over the Board or take some other adverse action in retaliation for such a move. All of this is harmful to the University, which you and the Board of Regents are charged to protect. Please protect the University of Texas at Austin and do not fire Bill Powers.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of the issues I've raised in this letter. If there is ever any way this loyal Longhorn can serve you, the Board of Regents, or the University of Texas at Austin, please call on me.

Sincerely,

Charlie Cooper

BBA 2005

JD 2010

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Aliseda, Ernest](#)  
**Subject:** William Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:19:34 AM

---

Dear Mr. Aliseda,

I respectfully ask you not allow or be involved with the immediate firing of Bill Powers.

This would be a terrible course of action by the Board of Regents that would do irreparable harm to the University and our state. The Board or Regents, working with Bill Powers, has done such a great job in elevating UT Austin's ranking among public universities. Enrollment among minority students has improved. The Board of Regents and the President led UT Austin through the economic downturn of 2007-2009 by cutting the operating budget and belt tightening measures with little repercussions to the quality of its product. The university is about to complete a record-setting capital campaign this fall of which President Powers has been the driving force. UT has a good national academic reputation and to dismiss the president would do irreparable harm to that reputation. You have accomplished so much together that a negotiated resignation is in order on a timeline that is reasonable and gives respect to the accomplishments of Dr. Powers and his administration.

What is happening here is unnecessary and unacceptable. Please work with President Powers to resolve these issues in a way to allows for a worthy successor to be selected with plenty of consideration of the qualified candidates. The University of Texas, the State of Texas and the citizens of Texas deserve better than this.

Sincerely,

Oscar O. Lopez  
2302 E. Price Street  
Laredo, Texas 78043

**Oscar O. Lopez, CFP®**  
Senior Vice President-Investments  
Branch Manager

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Foster, Paul](#)  
**Subject:** William Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 9:55:39 AM

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Dear Mr. Foster,

I respectfully ask you to reconsider your apparent stance to allow or be involved with the immediate firing of Bill Powers.

This would be a terrible course of action by the Board of Regents that would do irreparable harm to the University and our state. The Board of Regents, working with Bill Powers, has done such a great job in elevating UT Austin's ranking among public universities. Enrollment among minority students has improved. The Board of Regents and the President led UT Austin through the economic downturn of 2007-2009 by cutting the operating budget and belt tightening measures with little repercussions to the quality of its product. The university is about to complete a record-setting capital campaign this fall of which President Powers has been the driving force. At this time, UT enjoys the best national academic reputation ever and to dismiss the president would do irreparable harm to that reputation. You have accomplished so much together that a negotiated resignation is in order and in the best interest of everyone involved.

What is happening here is unnecessary and unacceptable. Please work with President Powers to resolve these issues in a way that allows for a worthy successor to be selected with plenty of consideration of the qualified candidates. The University of Texas, the State of Texas and the citizens of Texas deserve better than this.

Sincerely,

Oscar O. Lopez  
2302 E. Price Street  
Laredo, Texas 78043

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**From:** [Charlie Cooper](#)  
**To:** [Foster, Paul](#)  
**Cc:** [Powers, William - UT Austin](#); [Chancellor](#); [Reyes, Pedro](#)  
**Subject:** Please Protect The University of Texas at Austin  
**Date:** Monday, July 07, 2014 10:37:39 PM

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Dear Chairman Foster,

I write to you with both admiration and hope. When you were appointed as Chairman of the UT Board of Regents, I believed that your leadership would prove to have a calming effect on the unrest between the Board and The University of Texas at Austin leadership. It was widely reported that this was your intention. It would be a truly great accomplishment for you to calm the hostility that exists, and I am still optimistic that you'll be able to do so. I can only hope that this is something you still feel is worthwhile and within reach.

As I am sure you know, President Bill Powers has the overwhelming support of the University community—its students, faculty and alumni. He also seems to have the bipartisan support of the Legislature. In light of this overwhelming support, as well as the state- and nation-wide attention being paid to the matter of his tenure, it cannot be helpful to the governance, stature or any interest of the University to allow President Powers' public termination. I trust that you are already taking this factor into consideration in your determination and vote on the matter. But I felt it would be worthwhile to write to you about it anyway with the knowledge that my email is not the only one you'll receive this week—please note that the University community feels strongly enough in its commitment to President Powers to take time to be heard and involved in the decision about his continued leadership. This kind of civic participation is (unfortunately) rare, and when it occurs it deserves special attention. Please give this consensus gentium the weight it deserves and allow President Powers to continue his service to the University as its President.

If President Powers is removed in spite of the great support he enjoys, it will not serve your objective of improving the Board's relationship with University leadership (or with the Legislature). Firing President Powers will undoubtedly cause a social media uproar, and the traditional media will also cover it as a politically and personally motivated coup d'état. Faculty at the University will voice concern and umbrage, and attracting and retaining the brightest academic stars—the engines of our University—will become more difficult. Students and alumni will feel ignored, and this will make it more difficult for any new leadership to engage and fundraise with the alumni community. Finally, the Legislature seems likely to attempt to assert some additional authority over the Board or take some other adverse action in retaliation for such a move. All of this is harmful to the University, which you and the Board of Regents are charged to protect. Please protect the University of Texas at Austin and do not fire Bill Powers.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of the issues I've raised in this letter. If there is ever any way this loyal Longhorn can serve you, the Board of Regents, or the University of Texas at Austin, please call on me.

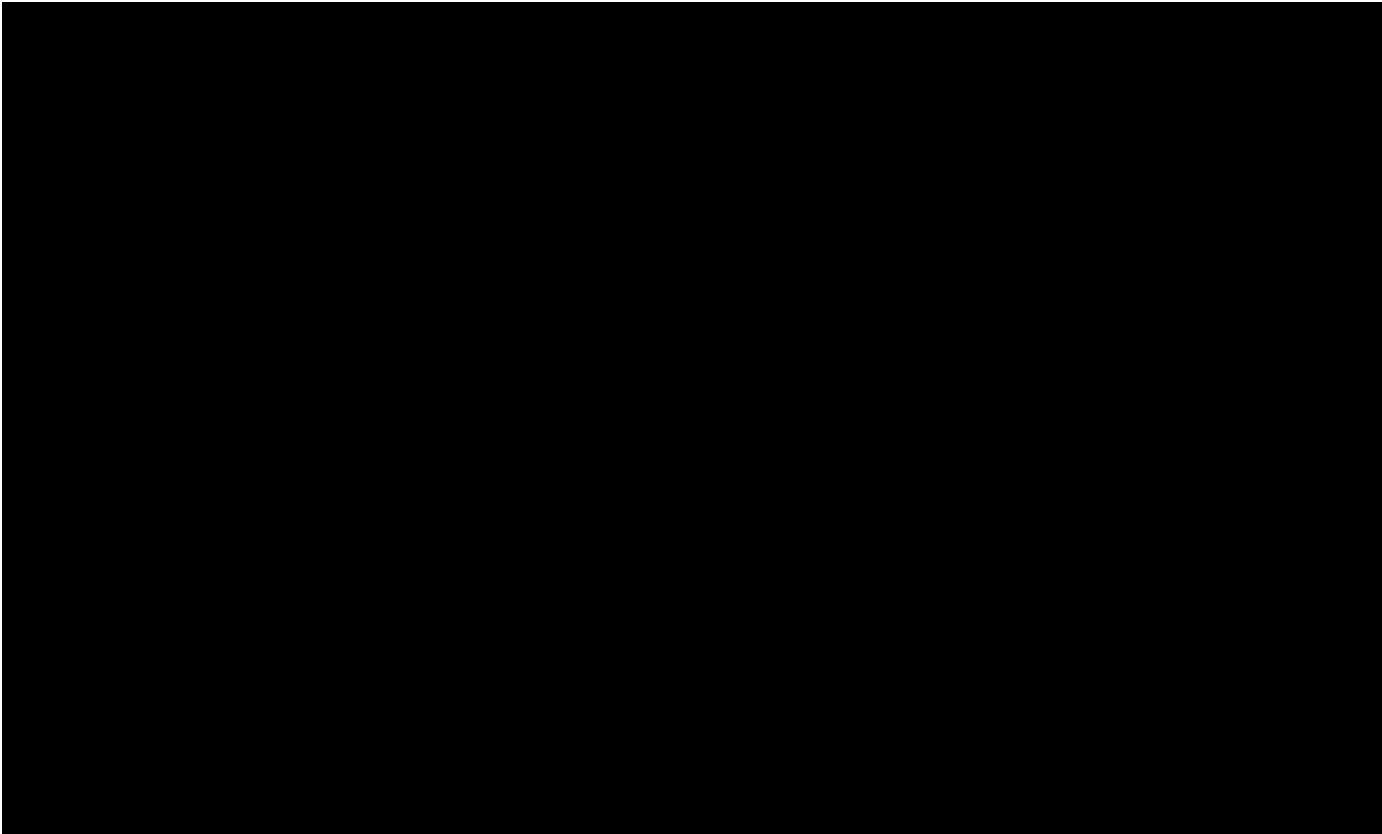
Sincerely,

Charlie Cooper  
BBA 2005  
JD 2010



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.





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**From:** Dempster, Douglas J [<mailto:ddempster@austin.utexas.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 07, 2014 11:55 AM  
**To:** Chancellor  
**Subject:** The Future of the University of Texas at Austin

Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,

I have enormous respect for the good work you've done as our chancellor under some very tough, contentious conditions. I am sorry that you chose, or were perhaps asked, to resign as chancellor as soon as you have.

I won't stand in judgment of your motives for requesting Bill Powers' resignation or guess at what recent events or revelations may have precipitated that request. I won't even risk presuming the accuracy of press reports about "ultimatums from the chancellor" or "whistleblowers" or hostilities between the two of you. The president serves at your pleasure and should follow your direction even if that includes resigning when requested.

I hope you and Bill come to some mutually agreeable resolution.

What I want to suggest is that whatever faculty, staff or alumni might feel about Bill Powers' presidency, trust in the good intentions and good judgment of some of our regents could not be lower.

You are widely perceived as a talented, hard-working, diplomatic and fair-minded chancellor who, like Bill Powers, has been caught up in a impatient, over-confident reform agenda prosecuted by some of our regents.

The rush, perhaps even a panic, to exert control over the next generation of leadership at the University of Texas could not be more obvious.

What's at stake here is not Bill Powers' tenure as president so much as the decision about who will be our next chancellor and our next president, and who will be making those decisions.

Few other decisions could tarnish your legacy so much as abetting—or being perceived as abetting—the power politics that are working hard and with such urgency to bring a great university to heel to a political agenda. I would urge you to distance yourself from that faction.

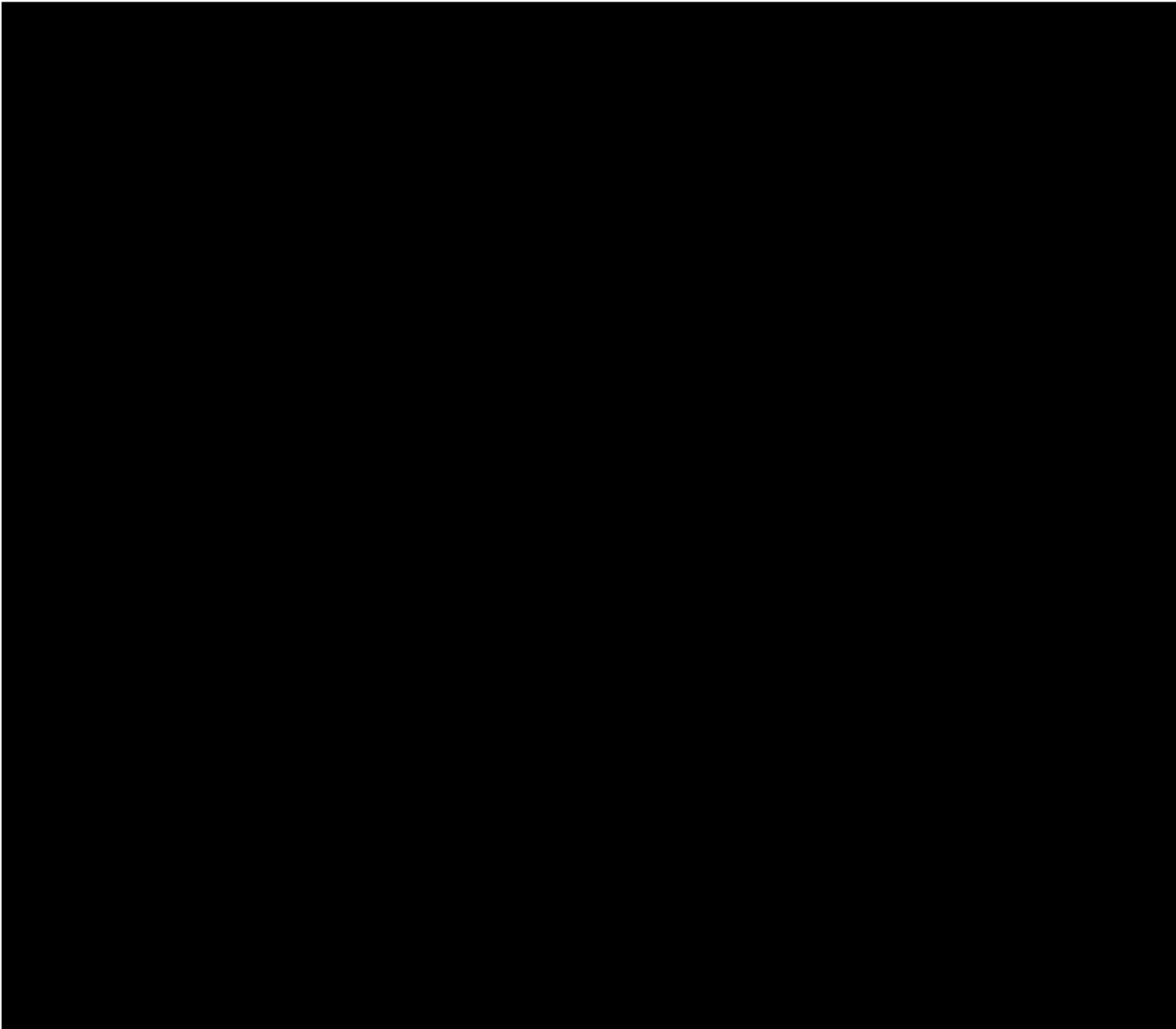
I suspect this matter is largely out of your control. If so, you deserve not to be implicated in the mess that's being made of a great university. I hope you can find a way to make that clear to the university community.

You have my continued trust.

Douglas Dempster

*Disciplina praesidium civitatis*

Douglas Dempster  
Dean, College of Fine Arts  
University of Texas at Austin  
1 University Station, D1400  
Austin, Texas 78712-0340  
(512) 475-7024



**From:** Tom Shockley [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent State of Affairs at UT-Austin  
**Date:** July 6, 2014 at 11:57:03 AM MDT  
**To:** Paul Foster <[REDACTED]>

I'm sure you get this but just in case. Tom

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Texas Exes" <[no-reply@alumni.utexas.edu](mailto:no-reply@alumni.utexas.edu)>  
**Date:** July 6, 2014 at 11:50:42 AM MDT  
**To:** "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Urgent State of Affairs at UT-Austin  
**Reply-To:** [no-reply@alumni.utexas.edu](mailto:no-reply@alumni.utexas.edu)

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**Dear Texas Ex,**

We apologize for interrupting your Fourth of July weekend, but we have urgent news of the university to share with you.

Multiple news outlets are reporting that UT-Austin President Bill Powers has been given an ultimatum to resign or be fired at this week's meeting of the Board of Regents. We can confirm for you that this news is accurate, and that President Powers has declined to resign, instead asking to work together on a timeline for change.

A forced resignation or firing would be a travesty for UT. It would cause further tension with legislators regarding UT System, would compound unrest among faculty, students, and alumni, and invoke serious harm to the institution's reputation in the national spotlight. President Powers has advanced the university through many tremendous accomplishments, and has been a great leader; he deserves better than this. This is about our university; it is a treasure that alumni need to protect and we need to stand up and fight for its stature. The University of Texas at Austin deserves better than this.

This latest news came from an unfortunate leak to the media which has caused a premature impression of an ongoing and unresolved personnel decision, and has inflamed the controversy. If the individual who leaked the details of the conversation between the chancellor and the president of UT-Austin to the media is in a fiduciary role over the university, this person has breached that duty and has not acted honorably nor in the best interests of the university. Despite this, the chancellor and the president should be able to work together on a mutual decision that provides leadership and a succession plan for the university. That is the way this kind of change is responsibly made.

For more information on this matter and resources for alumni to take action, please see this [overview](#) on our Texas Exes website, [www.texasexes.org](http://www.texasexes.org)

Thank you for your loyalty to our great alma mater.

**Kay Bailey Hutchison, President of the Board**  
**Charles Matthews, Chairman of the Board**



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