

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TREY MARTINEZ FISCHER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 116 - Bexar County

Chairman: Mexican American Legislative Caucus Member:
House Committee on Natural Resources;
House Committee on Ways & Means;
Select Committee on Transparency
in State Agency Operations

March 8, 2013

The Honorable Carol Alvarado & Dan Flynn Co-Chairs, Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations P.O. Box 2910 Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Co-Chairs Alvarado & Flynn:

There is a great deal of work that this committee must do to begin to understand the choices made by the University of Texas at Austin Law School, its foundation, and the actions of the leadership of UT and the UT System. Last Wednesday, due to time constraints, our committee's inquiry was cut short without hearing from the UT System's representative, Vice Chancellor Barry Burgdorf. Then, just one day later, Vice Chancellor Burgdorf resigned. In addition, the regent who has access to the most information concerning the board of regent's probe into the foundation has been unable to attend any hearing to date due to scheduling restraints. It is clear that something worthy of an in-depth review is occurring at the UT system.

Vice Chancellor Burgdorf's resignation raises the question of who will testify on behalf of the UT System. I suggest that we formally request Regent Brenda Pejovich's presence and testimony concerning the UT Law Foundation and the report given to the UT System Board of Regents concerning the foundation's actions. She has a broad base of knowledge that is critical to this committee's assessment of the actions of the foundation, the leadership of UT and the UT system, and former UT Law School Dean Lawrence Sager.

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This committee has made it clear that it intends to focus in a very detailed way on a few critical issues. There is no timeline, so we ought to proceed judiciously in our inquiry.

I have attached a letter that was sent to Regent Pejovich yesterday requesting her presence at a hearing. Also, I have attached an open records request that has been sent to the UT System. If you have any questions about this matter pending before the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Trev Martinez Pischer

Chairman, Mexican American Legislative Caucus

State Representative, District 116

CC: Members of the Transparency Committee.

Enclosure: Letter to Regent Pejovich, March 7, 2013; Open Records Request to the UT System March 8th, 2013.



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March 7, 2013

The Honorable Brenda Pejovich Regent, The University of Texas System System Ashbel Smith Hall, Suite 820 201 West Seventh Street Austin, Texas 78701-2981

Dear Regent Pejovich:

It is my understanding that you were invited to testify before the Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations but were unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. I am sorry you could not attend.

The testimony pertaining to the University of Texas Law School Foundation has been rescheduled. I hope that you will attend this meeting or a meeting in the near future, as I have a few questions for you and the status of your taskforce's inquiry.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at 512.463.0616.

Sincerely,

Trey Martinez Fischer

Chairman, Mexican American Legislative Caucus

State Representative, District 116

