

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: Bill Powers  
Date: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 11:55:03 PM

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UT System Board of Regents:

I would just like to express my frank disappointment both in your decision to freeze tuition and any possible thoughts you may have of firing President Bill Powers due to a difference of opinion. It is irresponsible for you to take a tuition increase off the table given the cuts to state funded higher education enacted by the Texas legislature. I realize that you were appointed by Governor Perry and that the governor opposes a tuition increase, but ultimately the blame still lies on you for failing to make the decision that was both right and responsible.

Even with all of this there is still no reason to want to remove Bill Powers from his office if this is your only reasoning. It is disgusting that there can be no discussion and we instead immediately move to putting his job on the chopping block. I stand with Bill Powers and Chancellor Cigarroa.

Signed and with all due respect from Mad-As-Hell UT Austin freshman,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The University of Texas at Austin

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: New President  
Date: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 11:56:29 PM

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Dear Board of Regents,

I am writing to you because I believe changed in this my university is needed. The university needs change and a new president in order to evolve and continue to grow successfully like many prestigious school in the world. I strongly oppose to keep current president Bill Powers. I want to protect the University of Texas and the future incoming students!

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: A Concerned Student  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 2:46:06 AM

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Board,

It has recently come to my attention that President Power's job is in jeopardy. After a little research, I discovered that within 12 hours of the first news release, a Facebook group titled "I STAND WITH BILL POWERS" gained almost 8,000 members. As a student of this university, I firmly believe that the value of my degree will be negated greatly if Powers is to lose his position. He has done amazing things for this University, and terminating him will, I assure you, result in an uprising of outraged students.

I value my degree. I stand with Bill Powers.



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: I stand with Bill Powers!  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 9:02:29 AM

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As a very proud University of Texas graduate and lifetime Texas Exes member, I am appalled that the Board of Regents is even considering firing President Powers. I enjoy reading his blog, his email updates and how much he values

I work [REDACTED] where state funding is also consistently decreasing for public universities. I get it. This economic climate stinks and students complain about tuition increases.

However, you cannot consistently fail to adequately fund a TOP TIER public university and then express outrage and disapproval when the President states that tuition increases are necessary to keep the University competitive! President Powers has done so much to raise funds so UT will keep its place among the top public institutions in the nation—fund raising to make up for the DECREASE in state funding!

Students and alumni stand with Bill Powers! I am a proud University of Texas Longhorn, not an alumna of the “university of Rick Perry.”

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: Support Bill Powers  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 12:30:05 PM

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We have learned that if one wants to degrade a great institution of higher learning, all one needs to do is let that institution's Board of Regents become political lap dogs of an Aggie.

The thought the Board of Regents of The University of Texas would bow to political interference and promote cronyism instead of guarding the academic interests of The University is, in a word, disgusting.

I graduate of UT/ Austin (BBA '84) and fully support Bill Powers and reject the meddling of Rick Perry. While he does hold the office of Governor, his meddling in the affairs of TAMU has lead them to academic disrepute and possibly to losing their AAU accreditation. The mere thought the Board of Regents would bow to political interests over the interests of UT/ Austin. Is beyond belief and should be reason enough for the Board to resign in shame.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: [REDACTED]  
To: Board of Regents  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 10:36:30 PM

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Dear Regents,

I am a California resident and my son attends UT. Being in a state where students and faculty fight every tuition increase (currently close to 20% per year) even though the state is on a fiscal precipice, I find it unbelievable that the Regents for the University of Texas would compromise the University's well being by denying what amounts to a very minimal tuition increase. It is refreshing to see a college administrator do what is fiscally responsible and in the best interests of the University, the students and the State of Texas. You have a great institution, I hope politics is not driving your decision making.

[REDACTED]

Concerned Parent



From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: President Powers  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 10:36:56 PM

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To the Board of Regents,

I am parent of a student at your school. I would like to let you know, that although my husband and I are very dedicated AGGIES, we chose to support our sons decision 3 years ago when he told us he wanted to go to UT. We have really been very impressed with your school and have enjoyed coming to hear President Powers speak many times. We really like him, his character, and his ambitions. His communication style is very approachable and we felt very at ease leaving our son here in this institution. Although I also did not agree with his recommendation to increase tuition ( what parent would?) I respected his view and even understood his position. I would like to see some form of compromise within your board and President Powers, so that we can all feel secure and safe that we are all supporting eachother. A divided staff can bring down such a fine institution like UT and I would hate to see that happen. I would like to encourage you not to fire such a fine man like President Powers. He stood strong when us Aggies were trying to get the best of him a few months ago during the SEC talks. Thankyou for your time. may God Bless you.... And HOOK'em Horns!! ( ouch! That hurt)

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]  
To: Board of Regents  
Subject: President Bill Powers  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 10:47:10 PM

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I am glad you rejected the tuition increase that Bill Powers was wanting. Cost of attending the University of Texas is too high already.

Just wanted you to know how I, a Texas Exe, and mother of a student at UT, feels.

Thanks!

[REDACTED]  
Hook 'em!

p.s. My Dad also graduated from UT(3 generations)



From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: Deep Concern Over Rumors at UT-Austin  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 11:19:07 AM

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To the Board of Regents:

It is with deepest concern that I write to you, as rumors begin to flurry around the University of Texas at Austin Campus of chances of President William C. Powers being replaced. I have worked [REDACTED] under President Powers, and he is one of the most remarkable, inspiring, and effective leaders I have ever encountered.

I have watched as many of you have come [REDACTED], and I assure you I am fully aware of all the great things you all have and will always do for us as students. Myself and many of the current, past, and future students of UT are humbly pleading you all to cease even the slightest consideration of replacing President Powers. Much of our faith in the University of Texas would falter, and support for the administration would certainly do the same.

I am a student leader [REDACTED] we have lived there with such pride that we stand between two astounding landmarks that represent the prominence and intelligence of our great state of Texas. I ask you to not let political pressures be the sole determinant of your stance. Please do not tarnish our view between these two establishments.

I stand behind President Powers.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: Board of Regents  
Subject: President Powers  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 11:23:18 PM

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Members of The Board of Regents,

The University of Texas at Austin is not only one of the finest universities in the nation, but it is one of the finest institutions in the world. Under the right leadership, UT has the opportunity to continue to have an immeasurably positive impact on the state of Texas, our nation, and the world. President Bill Powers is the right leader for The University of Texas. No doubt, each of you has made great sacrifices to serve on the Board of Regents. Service on the Board of Regents is a great honor and a great responsibility, thank you for your efforts. My love for The University has been shaped by a lifetime growing up in Austin, my four years earning my undergraduate degree, my return to the McCombs School of Business to earn a Master's degree, and years as an active alumni proud to share time and financial resources to support The University.

Recognizing that we share a great passion for UT, I was greatly disappointed to read Paul Burka's report about the Regents' plan to fire President Powers. At this point, I cannot confirm whether the report is rumor or fact, however, I am able to confirm personal experience and the shared experiences of countless other alumni that President Powers continues to do an outstanding job leading The University.

The best interests of The University should be paramount to all alumni and the Board of Regents. That is why I am hopeful that the Burka report is not accurate. Reasonable minds may disagree about tuition increases, but it would be difficult to understand an esteemed Board seeking to fire President Powers.

President Powers consistently leads The University toward excellence with great competence and character. With respect to the issue of tuition increases, the President showed great leadership by offering thoughtful, measured, and rational remarks about a topic that is very important to the institution he is entrusted to lead.

Because Burka report has already caused an unnecessary stir, I am hopeful that the Regents will act in the best interests of The University, the students, the alumni, and the state by publicly endorsing President Powers. As a governing body, the Board of Regents has the opportunity to display great leadership and integrity, itself, by endorsing Bill Powers. Moreover, this endorsement will put an end to an unnecessary conversation and allow The University to refocus on greatness.

Hook 'em.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: President Powers and the Texas Exes E-mail  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 11:27:43 PM

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If the rumors are true, I strongly welcome the decision. I disagree strongly with President Powers about the need to raise tuition on students and his public airing of grievances was entirely out of line. As students and former students we are now being charged an enormous and unsustainable amount to attend the University of Texas, President Powers' desire to punish students for their failure to graduate on time as well as his belief that the university community would be bettered by further increasing the burden on students is so out of touch with the reality of the situation students live in today. As a former Longhorn returning to UT, nothing bothers me more about UT than how disconnected the administration is from those who they are meant to be helping.

I could not be more pleased that someone so out of touch with the student body may see the door. The Texas Exes e-mail was out of line in the first place, and their argument of instability is frankly moronic. If someone is making bad decisions, let them answer for them. Faulty and out of touch leadership is far worse for the university than any perceived threat of instability.

-A concerned Texas Exes Life Member and current UT student.



From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: Disturbed by the reports that Bill Powers job may be in jeopardy  
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 11:35:10 PM

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I've been a staunch supporter of UT (vocally and financially) over the years and I'm becoming very disturbed regarding the rumblings that have come out regarding the board of regents over the past couple of years. It seems they have become puppets for our governor (by the way I am a Republican), in his desire to diminish the value of a UT degree. As a UT alum (BBA- 91) it seems that the board of regents doesn't share the same mission of the majority alums and the mandate from the legislature that the University of Texas be "a university of first class". As a board of regents member it's your duty to act in the best interest of UT and to ensure the institution continues to strive to maximize what it can become and to ensure that its status as a "1<sup>st</sup> class" institution is maintained and strengthened.

The legislature has continuously cut the UT-Austin budget over the past 8 years. Being a finance Director myself I understand the challenges of budgets and the importance of tight fiscal management. President Powers made a very modest request (2.6% each of the next 2 years) for tuition increases to offset some of the state budget reductions, and the board of regents blocked the increase. The 2.6% proposed increase would probably not even keep up with inflation, not to mention the budget cuts. In my mind the rejection of the increase by the BOR is a direct slap in the face to Powers and UT-Austin, especially when you consider they approved increases at all other universities in the UT system. Powers then speaks out regarding his disappointment and there are rumors that Perry and his board appointees want to fire him for disagreeing for what he believes in. UT has always been a place where different views and opinions have been embraced. It's critical in an academic environment to maintain that culture.

The premier flagship university of the state Texas should charge tuition that is commiserate with the tuition and fees by other premier public universities (e.g. Cal, Mich, UVA). If you want to cheapen higher education (or for that matter experiment with higher education practices), do so at lesser institutions in the system without compromising the vast improvements made at UT over the past 30 years and its prospects for further improvements in the educational hierarchy in the years to come. The State of Texas needs at least one public university (and more accurately several universities) of the first order to remain competitive with other states that have long recognized the importance of educating their citizenry.

Rick Perry is running his alma mater into the ground and it seems like he's trying to do that same thing by pushing his agenda through the UT BOR.

From: [REDACTED]  
To: Board of Regents  
Date: Friday, May 11, 2012 2:33:03 AM

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Beirut, 11 May 2012

Dear Board Members,

I, [REDACTED] am one of the very early UT graduates from LEBANON. I have been and still am very proud of being a UT fellow. I was instrumental in sending more than 100 students, including my son [REDACTED] to study at UT.

I have been following the achievements of President Powers towards maintaining excellence and continued progress at UT. I fully support his decisions and hope the Board of Regents would do the same to maintain stability at UT.

Regards and all the very best

respectfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: I support President Powers completely  
Date: Friday, May 11, 2012 6:37:40 AM

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I writing this note to declare my support for UT President Powers. I share his goals and dreams for the University. I am disgusted by the political interference that threatens his tenure.

I met Bill Powers when I was a law student at UT in the late 1970s and while I can't count him as a friend, I recognize that he is the right man for the job. He's shown great leadership and vision.

I am a member of the Chancellor's Council and the Littlefield Society, but if a man of Mr. Power's talent and vision is forced out of office, perhaps my money should go elsewhere.

I am too angry and sleepy to be articulate at this time of the morning, but I wanted to get this message out now.



From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: Bill Powers  
Date: Friday, May 11, 2012 7:24:48 AM

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Dear Regents,

I wholeheartedly agreed with your decision to instruct the UT administration to figure out how to fulfill its mission without raising student tuition. I am a grateful graduate of the school, and my wife and I have endowed a scholarship there (and helped raise money for other endowed scholarships), so my love for the institution is not half-hearted. I firmly believe that an effort has to be made to focus academic dollars to provide better education more efficiently. I do appreciate that UT appears to be more efficient than other schools, but that is like comparing my time in the mile to Rosie O'Donnell's. All of higher education needs to refocus after three decades of loosely supervised cost and program and compensation rate growth.

Nevertheless, if you are considering terminating President Powers over his public disagreement, I urge you to desist. Dissent should not be grounds for termination. Failure to carry out the mandate, failure to handle the fiscal challenges in an effective manner, that would be a different issue. But using the mere expression of dissent as grounds for termination will bring discredit and discontent to both The University and to the Board of Regents.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Board of Regents](#)  
Subject: Fire Powers  
Date: Friday, May 11, 2012 12:38:05 AM

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Esteemed Board of Regents,

I write to applaud your decision to fire President Bill Powers from his position as President of the University of Texas.

I hope you decide to carry through with this action and replace Powers with a president that is more in touch with students, staff and faculty at the University.

Stop raising tuition. It is destroying the University.

Yours,

[REDACTED]  
Graduate Student  
University of Texas at Austin  
[REDACTED]