

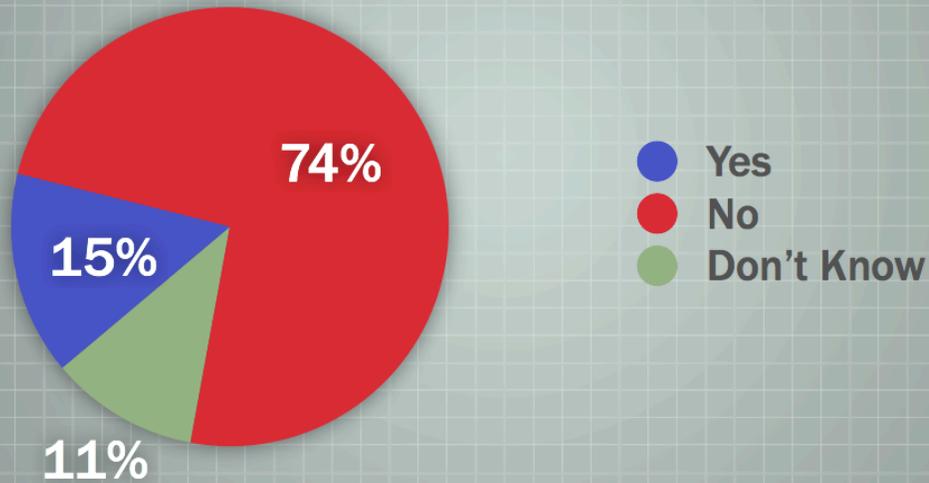
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

Sponsored by: **Hahn, Texas**

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of April 1*

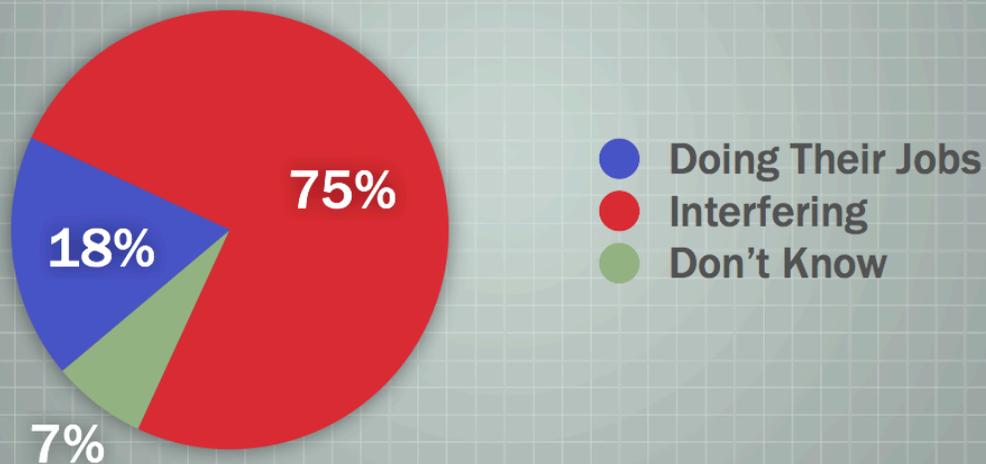
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should Bill Powers resign from UT?



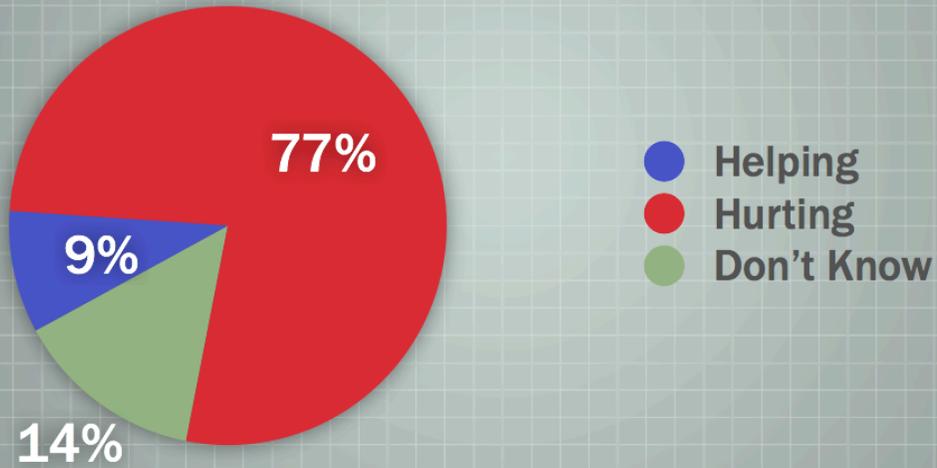
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Describe the UT regents' actions?



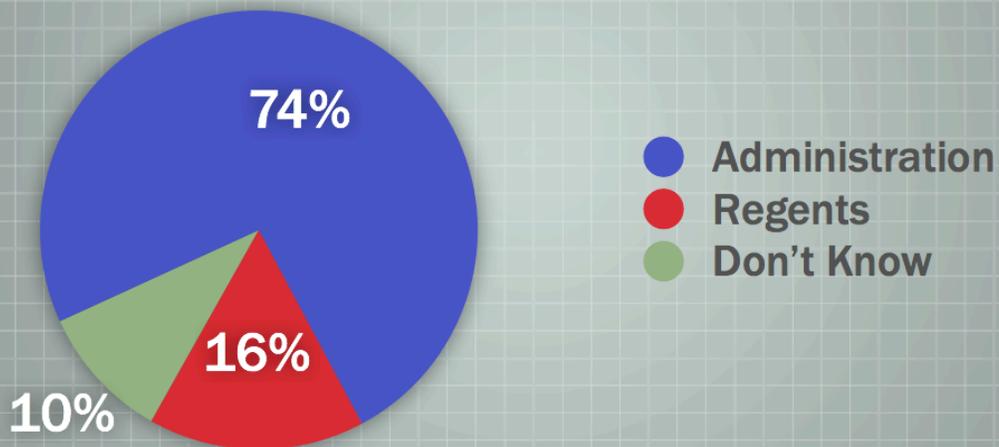
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

The governor's impact on UT?



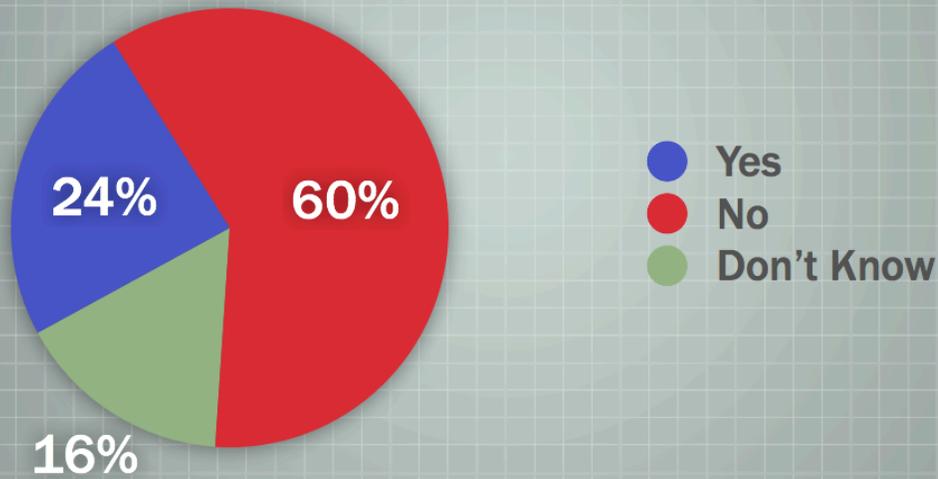
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Whose side are you on?



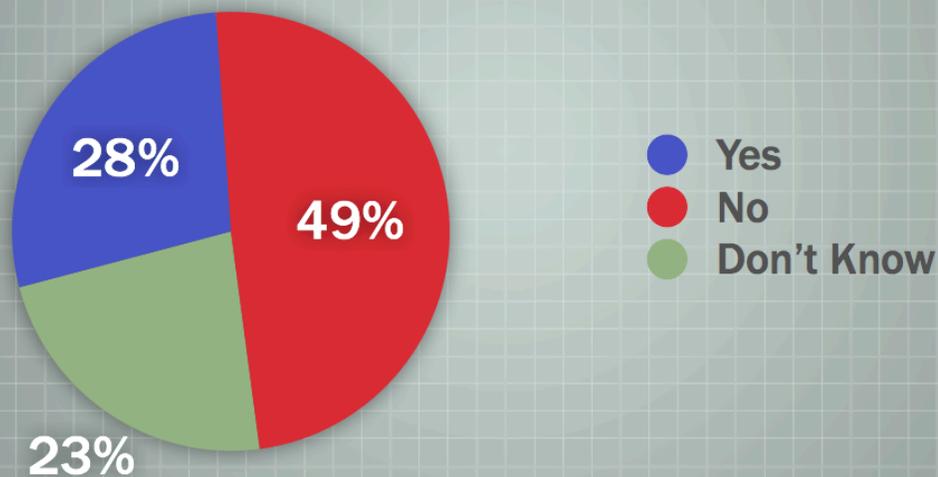
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Do other colleges need the same attention?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should senators confirm Perry's new appointees?



Should Bill Powers resign or be replaced as president of the University of Texas?

- "The answer to this question turns on whether Powers will acknowledge he answers to the Chancellor who answers to the Board of Regents."
- "And it's not for the Regents to decide."
- "President Powers may not ultimately be able to save his job from the wrath of the governor but there is no way he should resign or be replaced. Of course, all of this has to be taking its toll on him but I hope he doesn't give in. He's an honorable guy standing up to a less than honorable effort to throw him out."
- "He's been an excellent president. His only offense is being an independent voice for the university in a city that is under autocratic one-man rule."
- "If he steps down, it should be on his terms."
- "For the most part we all have a boss and have to do what our boss wants. Regents are Mr. Powers' bosses. (wrong or right, totally different topic) if you don't like the direction your bosses are going then quit and do something else. He is obviously a very smart capable individual, he should have no problem finding another job where he can be on the same page than his boss."
- "He is one of the best Presidents the University has ever had. He would be hired to run another national system in about 5 minutes. Which former Perry staffer is in need of a job now?"
- "While I think Powers is not without blame on several fronts, the regents, acting on behalf of the Governor, have contorted the governance of the system."
- "Powers' only fault is telling the truth about the affirmative harm a decade of Republican 'reform' has done to higher education in Texas."
- "Just politics."
- "Resign, if he was Prime Minister a vote of no confidence would have been called months and months ago."
- "Only if he is a no good t-sip."
- "Powers has been shamefully treated in this matter."
- "Perry should lay off!"
- "If Gov. Perry wants to put a nail in his political coffin, then yes, Powers should be replaced."
- "If he is forced out, this will be one of the most ignominious moments in the history of Texas. Academic freedom and political independence will be well on their way to their graves; something like this happening fifty years ago may not have been a big deal, but now, it seriously questions the legitimacy of institutions supposedly reformed years ago and held to contemporary standards of ethics."
- "But not for personality reasons or different visions for the university. He should resign so that in his future endeavors he would have to explain

the firing details to a future employer. He's done a fine job and can rest on his laurels."

- "You have a President that CARES about his University and is totally invested in what is BEST for that University and you want him to resign so that a CRAZY board of regents can find someone who will 'dumb down' the university to the level that A&M was dumbed down (more than they already were!) Before John Sharp stepped in as Chancellor? That would be a HORRIBLE tragedy which would take DECADES of recovery!"

- "While I suspect Powers is a good president, when the Regents say hop that is what a president or a chancellor, for that matter, must do. The Regents are in charge."

- "The Perry-ites don't like Powers because he is competent -- not part of the tribe."

- "Homer Rainey is rolling in his grave. I thought we quit this (*%^&%\$ 60 years ago."

- "He's a good fellow, but he's perpetuating a fight that he should have deftly avoided (as Cigarroa has) and used his energy and strength to reform and elevate UT. Rather we get all the high profile martyrdom and division. He's not the main fault, but he hasn't used his leadership well. He's become part of the distraction. Folks can blame Perry and his crowd, but these are the same folks who picked John Sharp, a fellow who is moving forward rather nicely at A&M."

- "Nor does anyone else unless one has access to the same information available to the Board of Regents."

- "Don't let appointed, unaccountable 'educrats' run off professionals. That's not conservative and it's not Texan."

- "Not only no, HELL no."

- "Need a new Board"

- "w/o regard to his appropriate tenure, the optic that he was forced out by political forces in the state would be damaging for the institution and the state. The governor should not want this to be his legacy; but it may well be."

- "Powers has done nothing wrong, his crime is standing up to Perry his puppets on the board and the far right."

- "Yes, but only because he's a jock-sniffer who has refused to clean out a top-heavy, sclerotic athletic department. (Hey, this is Texas. What did you expect, a reasoned debate on academics?)"

- "I don't know whether he should be replaced--what's he done to warrant losing the confidence of the Board, besides not kowtowing to them? --But he should not resign. Bill Powers is good man, a legal scholar, incredible fundraiser, and excellent manager. If the Board is stupid enough to follow through on Perry's wish, Powers will be fine. UT, however, will be damaged beyond repair--who would want the job? 'University of the first class' no more if that happens, and in Perry's eyes--Mission Accomplished."

- "As Rick Perry says, that's up to the regents. Unlike Rick Perry, though, I mean it."
- "There is no basis for removing or replacing Bill Powers."

- "Doesn't the President just exist to back up faculty & staff, fundraise, and get important people's kids into school? If so, seems like he's doing his job fine."

Are the UT System regents interfering at UT-Austin, or doing their jobs?

- "While one may not like the direction a governing board takes an organization, they are the governing board."
- "The Board of Regents is way out of line. Sen. Zaffirini was right when she said the Board of Regents is acting outside of its statutory mandate."
- "They are harassing Powers and his aides, hoping they'll quit so Perry won't have to take the political hit from firing them."
- "Not everyone might agree, but the regents are well within their authority in reviewing and/or questioning the actions of any president in the UT System."
- "These individuals are not paid. They are individuals with different backgrounds that are volunteering their time and in many cases their own resources to help. The regents are part of the UT system (if they should be or not is again a total different discussion) so I believe that they are given a job and they are trying to do it so let them"
- "Micromanagers who are damaging the reputation and image of the UT system and especially UT Austin."

- "Yes, they are interfering and doing their jobs. Not well I might add."
- "They are nothing but mindless minions of Mammon."
- "Not sure but if the perspective is micromanaging - what are some of the legislators doing- they too micromanage agencies -if it is convenient to their goals. They are talking out of both sides."
- "It's their job to do the interfering for the governor. That is why they were appointed."
- "To my mind answering this question in any other manner would highlight the "self-deluded elitist" thinking some claim my beloved University suffers from.... ipso facto."
- "Oversight by another name."
- "They are doing Gov. Perry's political bidding."
- "Accountability is important but it's clear now that all they want is a pretext for firing him"
- "The UT Law School Foundation was very questionable and the regents should look at that. Not sure if Powers and others are resisting this inquiry."

- "They're acting ridiculously and it is extremely obvious what they are trying to do. Not once in the twenty plus years I've been working the legislature have I EVER seen the UT board of regents act so malicious and with ill content. Makes me ashamed to be a former student."
- "Policy, policy and policy!"
- "Attempting to do the NASTY, dirty work of the Governor who appointed them! Bill Powers is intelligent, well respected and a GREAT fundraiser/advocate for UT. He is well know and respected around the country - Rick Perry is NOT. Therefore Perry must get his minions to do whatever is necessary to attempt to destroy Bill Powers!!"
- "As long as they are setting policy, the Regents are doing their job."
- "Oversight = good government. Overreach=abuse of power."
- "Interfering, but unfortunately they are also doing their jobs, as is defined by he who appointed them."
- "Nothing much positive can be said about them either. Maybe we get a mutual departure pact of both the Regents and Powers."
- "A Regent should always have the ability to ask appropriate questions. What they do with the information is the only thing that should be open to public scrutiny."
- "Como se dice, interfering!"
- "Duh"
- "The very thought of university regents actions being characterized as interfering is silly. That's their job."
- "It's clear as east Texas mud that they are interfering at the behest of Perry. And doing so badly."
- "Probably a little of both."

Is Gov. Rick Perry helping or hurting the UT System?

- "The System will be better when Powers and others recognize they are there to serve the students and not the faculty or their own egos."
- "He doesn't care!"
- "Anything that hurts the flagship of the UT System hurts the entire system."
- "Perry's major point -- that the University could use some economy measures -- is overwhelmed by the naked political interference in Texas' flagship university."
- "The way it's playing out, all the drama is hurting UT."
- "Why will the governor want to hurt the system? That does not help him. He is simply appointing regents (it is part of his job to do so)"
- "He has no intention of helping. He wouldn't know what to do."

- "Perry is an old-school Aggie who hates The University with every fiber of his being. No rational basis for his actions whatsoever."

- "I think Governor Perry has the right vision for the future of Texas education, but, as with some of his past initiatives, personal vendettas detract from otherwise noble efforts. We need a few flagship, world-class universities, with the others providing affordable educations which will impart job skills as well as abstract thoughts and obtuse facts. In other words, one size doesn't fit all."

- "He's just screwing with them because he can."

- "Helping, his aim is to better serve the students and parents. Remember them, the consumers of this public good."

- "Aggies are always looking after their Johnny-come-lately cousins."

- "Our Aggie governor should stop meddling in UT's business. If he wants to screw up his alma mater that's one thing, but not UT."

- "If he interferes; he's hurting. If he does nothing, he's hurting. He's probably stuck between a rock and hard place over the people he appointed to that post."

- "Just hang out on campus for a few days, and you'll see how low morale has gotten among faculty, staff, and administration. It's only a matter of time before the culture perpetuated by Perry and the Legislature infects the students. This path is ridiculous - we're destroying one of the greatest public university systems in the world

because of the leadership of someone with absolutely no higher ed expertise."

- "It's his board and they should be beholden to him. Higher Ed is an interesting area with so many tenured, free thinking and speaking folks, one will always get negative feedback no matter what side you're on."

- "He ruined A&M why not try to ruin his rival school?"

- "Is this a trick question? Sheesh. Ray Charles could see what he's trying to do here."

- "I suspect the System will not collapse because of Governor Perry. However, he should be mindful of powerful and wealthy UT alums who may not take kindly to an Aggie messing with their schools. Rich and influential folks have ways to get back at their enemies. Just ask Governor Ferguson"

- "This is what happens when you have a governor who is dumber than a sack of rocks. (And have you seen the rocks at his ranch?)"

- "He should lead all of them to mutually satisfactory positions. This dispute only serves to diminish one of our great institutions."

- "The question assumes facts not yet established."

- "He is hurting all higher ed"

- "It's time for change, in the Governorship!"

- "He has not been helpful to Higher Ed in general because of his alignment with the far left groups that want to change the structure of Higher Education."

- "Rick Perry has no desire to help the UT System. He wants to knock it down a few notches so that 'his' Aggies can catch up. All this hullabaloo is not about students, accountability, efficiency or reform. For someone who wants to attract

business to Texas, picking on academia and a leading research university (\$1.1B in research grants awarded to UT in the past two years alone) sure is a funny way to demonstrate your commitment to growing Texas's economy."

- "Definitely hurting. Forget the Bill Powers stuff. Can we talk about him putting an Aggie on the UT Board of Regents, please?"

If you chose sides, would you be with the administration at UT-Austin or with the UT System regents?

- "I side with the Regents because I side with the students who are effectively the paying consumers of what the System provides."

- "UT-Austin all the way. And God bless Steve Hicks. I hope he can say he's a Regent with pride again soon."

- "The Regents are Perry stooges and should be ashamed of themselves."

- "College administrators always get defensive when their actions or motives are questioned. Regents provide oversight. Everyone answers to someone. Believe it or not, that should apply to academia as well."

- "I'm not typically sympathetic to higher ed managers at the campus or system level. In this match, advantage UT Austin."

- "They have ultimate responsibility."

- "I think Powers and Cigarroa are doing a fantastic job and I hope if any new folks are anointed that they take into consideration folks that truly care

about education and can speak legislatively so monies are protected"

- "Both sides don't know what the hell they are doing."

- "Academia is already an echo-chamber, UT even more so; some would argue this is systemic to the higher education industrial complex. The regents bring a vital outside perspective to the governance of the school."

- "Other"

- "While the tendency is to think that elected officials are getting in the way of professional educators, in fact, education bureaucrats have created a university that does not reflect the values or intentions of the people of Texas who are, of course, paying for it. Powers and his ilk have no divine right to be free of politics when they live off government money. Most Texans are not worried that our university system does not function like California's, which is often the criticism. Instead, the California

model is what we would like to avoid."

- "Call me old-fashioned, but I trust academics on issues of higher education as opposed to political appointees."
- "Tough one. Administration on some things and Regents on others."
- "Regents are CRACKPOT, political appointee hacks. Jeff Sandefer is STILL upset that UT would not grant him tenure - GET OVER IT!"
- "I don't know all of the inside baseball."

- "The cost of college education is too high -- that's why the state should increase its funding. You can't be a first world state with third world schools. The Walmartification of our schools has to stop."
- "How about giving us the choice of neither!"
- "No one should choose a side until the information available to the Regents is known by all."
- "Wrong choices. The correct answer is 'the Students.'"
- "Don't know. Don't care. Haven't thought about it. And I'm a UT-Austin alum."

Would other public institutions of higher education in Texas benefit from the same attention the UT system is getting from state leaders?

- "If other systems have management that has lost sight of the chain of command then they can benefit from increased scrutiny."
- "I'm not sure any other public institution of higher education warrants this kind of attention at this time but if a board of regents of another system was doing what UT's is doing, I hope legislators would take the same approach."
- "Leaders at other state institutions are keeping their heads down, trying to avoid attention, and thanking God it's Bill Powers' fight (and not theirs)."
- "Do not understand the question"
- "Only in similar circumstances should state leaders intervene."
- "All the institutions would benefit from a different kind of attention: adequate funding and acknowledgment of the central role they have played and continue to play in shaping our state's character and future leaders."
- "The cost of higher education relative to its market value is completely out of whack. The student loan debacle, and the incentive to have students and parents in debt beyond their ability to pay is damn near criminal. Too bad the fuss at UT hasn't a thing to do with the real issues."
- "This would be legislative micromanaging."
- "ATM"

- "Does that suggest the previous attention other universities have gotten from the leg was ill advised? No state entity is beyond reproach."
- "Out of sight, out of mind."
- "There is more transparency when state leaders are involved. The press is skeptical if the Governor is involved, but they rarely question the academics."
- "The more state leaders forget there are other things to meddle with, the better."
- "It usually won't turn out favorable if all eyes are looking at you."
- "Depends on which state leaders you're talking about! Perry, no. The Lt Gov and Speaker standing up for UT, yes."
- "What about Texas Southern University or Prairie View? Would it be possible to give some attention and money to these two schools? Is it right that vending machines at TSU are placed behind locked gates?? That dorm rooms here sometimes have problems with rodents, mold etc.? Yet the Regents at TSU don't really ask their President for updates on these issues? When was the last time the Governor visited Prairie View? Considering its proximity to College Station you might think he could spare some time to visit there! His Chancellor has certainly visited (thank the lord for John Sharp!)"
- "If there truly is a problem at UT that merits a shake up, it would be wise to look statewide for improvements."
- "The key word here is 'benefit.' There has been no benefit to date unless the final outcome includes changes to state law for confirming regents and removing them."
- "Depends on which 'state leaders' you mean."
- "All schools should receive scrutiny, but it should be apolitical and geared towards improving the educational experience, not forcing untested ideology down the throat of an enduring and esteemed institution. Above all, schools are not businesses and they should not be cheapened as such."
- "Are you kidding? What do a bunch of immature and inept politicians ever do to help?"
- "It should be the health related institutions that get more attention."
- "If its good enough for UT, this amount of scrutiny should be good for the other flag ship universities, and in particular Texas A&M University. I wonder why?"
- "If the road to Hell is paved with good intentions, then bad intentions just get you there quicker."
- "Nobody wants to be in the spotlight like this."

Should Texas senators confirm the governor's three newest appointees to the UT Board of Regents?

- "Voting not to confirm would be symbolic -- Perry would find a way to get his stooges onto the board anyway -- but would be an important statement of protest against Perry's interference."
- "Assuming they are decent capable individuals with clean criminal and moral background"
- "If they don't confirm them, won't the Governor just make recess appointments? Best solution is to pass a 'best practices' governance bill and then confirm them."
- "It is time the Senate actually did their job rather than rubber stamp whatever the governor sends them."
- "Doesn't really matter. He can wait the Senate out."
- "Are they qualified candidates who care about higher education in Texas and the direction of the UT System? If so, then yes. Anything less, then no."
- "Only regents who understand academic freedom should be confirmed."
- "The senate wants the opportunity to do some screwing themselves."
- "He is the Governor after all."
- "Why punish the innocent?"
- "Need more information"
- "More transparency."
- "If they want to send a message to the Gov, then do not confirm them unless they promise that they won't do what these other regents are doing."
- "Certainly not the Texas A&M alumni."
- "They are fit to serve, I presume."
- "Confirm after thorough vetting re whether they will not join the current witch-hunt"
- "Sadly, I have not had enough time to look at their bios. It frightens me that they are more Perry appointees and will probably continue down the destructive path which he is determined to lead the University of Texas Regents down!"
- "If you want to mess with Governor, vote not to confirm. Otherwise, the Senate should do its own vetting and let each regent stand or fall on his or her own merits."
- "Not at this time."
- "They should ask them tough questions and smoke out where they stand on the issue of Powers."
- "What does it matter?"
- "Knife cuts both ways. Meddling is not good for executive or legislative."
- "Send a signal that they need to, Stop Meddling!"
- "Gov. Goodhair appointed an Aggie graduate who was the in the Corps of

Cadets. Would he ever consider appointing a Longhorn to the board of his beloved cow college?"

• "Confirm two. Let the Aggie hang in the wind!"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Don Baylor, Dave Beckwith, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, David Cabrales, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Roberto DeHoyos, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, Susan Hays, John Heasley, Steve Holzheuser, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, Scott McCown, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, Kim Ross, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Christopher Shields, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Bryan Sperry, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Tom Suehs, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.