



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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August 12, 2015

Dr. Gregory L. Fenves, President  
Office of the President, Main 400  
The University of Texas  
Austin, Texas 78724

Dear Greg,

The Faculty Council approved legislation at their regular meeting on January 27, 2014, that recommended the creation of a Faculty Educational Benefit (FEB). Like the current Staff Educational Benefit, the proposed FEB would cover the cost of resident tuition for one undergraduate or graduate class per term at UT-Austin. In the Faculty Council discussion, this proposal was described as having “relatively minimal cost”.

Over the past academic year, the Faculty Council Executive Committee discussed this proposal on at least three separate occasions in the FCEC+ meetings with President Powers. While the Staff Educational Benefit has been highly beneficial for members of our staff, particularly in helping some individuals to complete an undergraduate degree, the real cost to the University cannot be characterized as “minimal” since it requires “real dollars” to cover tuition charges, and these funds cannot be drawn from state-allocated resources. In response to an inquiry made to the Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hegarty, the Associate VP for Finance Mary Knight stated that the current annual costs for the staff benefit came to \$1.1 million (correspondence dated 9/11/14 and 11/25/14).

The joint Faculty Council Executive Committees for both 2014-15 and 2015-16 have discussed and reviewed the proposed Faculty Educational Benefit and feel that in this period of constrained financial resources for the University the economic feasibility for the creation of this benefit cannot be accurately assessed. We respectfully propose that this legislation be returned to Faculty Council for further study.

With best regards, *Bill*

From: William Beckner, Chair, Faculty Council 2014-15  
Andrea Gore, Chair, Faculty Council 2015-16  
Hillary Hart, Secretary, Faculty Council and General Faculty  
Faculty Council Executive Committee: Jay Hartzell, Coleman Hutchison, Jody Jensen,  
Maria Juenger, Christine Julien, Kerry Kinney, Lauren Meyers, Dean Neikirk, Mariah  
Wade

c:

Janet Dukerich, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Carol Longoria, Assistant Deputy to the President

Deborah Roberts, Executive Assistant, Office of the General Faculty