

## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL FOR 2017-2018**

The University of Texas at Austin  
Main Building, Room 212

Monday, March 19, 2018  
2:15 PM

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY** (D 16234-16240)—Alan W. Friedman (Professor, English).
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**
  - A. Minutes of the Regular Faculty Council Meeting of February 12, 2018 (D 16241-16260)—Alan W. Friedman.
- III. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT**—Gregory L. Fenves.
  - A. Comments by the President.
  - B. Questions to the President—See the attachment.
- IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**— Steven D. Hoelscher (Professor, American Studies, Geography and the Environment).
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**—None.
- VI. REPORTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY, COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMITTEES**—None.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS.**
  - A. Statement from the University of Texas Libraries Committee—George D. Bittner (Committee Chair and Professor, Neurosciences).
  - B. Resolution in Support of the University of Texas Libraries Committee Statement Concerning the Fine Arts Library (D16224)— Steven D. Hoelscher.
  - C. Report from the new Title IX Coordinator— Krista Anderson.
  - D. Election of Members to UGSAC (D 16225-16226)—Steven D. Hoelscher.
- VIII. REPORT OF THE CHAIR ELECT**—Charlotte Canning (Professor, Theatre and Dance).
- IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS.**
  - A. Final phase for election to the Faculty Council opens March 19.
  - B. Joint Meeting with Texas A&M at College Station, March 23.
  - C. The next Faculty Council meeting will be held on April 9.
  - D. Standing Committee annual reports due April 30.
- X. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR.**
- XI. ADJOURNMENT.**

*Alan W. Friedman*

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

Questions to the President  
Submitted by Professor Tom Palaima (Classics) and Al Martinich (Philosophy)  
March 2, 2018

Dear President Fenves,

It has become clear that the removal of 55,000 books and 20,000 journal volumes from the Fine Arts Library phase 1 of clearing space for a design installation known as the Foundry authorized and enacted by Dean Doug Dempster and Vice Provost Lorraine Haricombe took place

- a. without consultation with the Faculty Council standing committees on Libraries and on Research Policy,
- b. without consultation with the faculties of music and fine arts most affected by the loss of these research and teaching resources, and
- c. without discussion in the Faculty Council.

The official policies and procedures guidelines for the Texas A&M Libraries System, which we received quickly upon request (UT Austin was able to provide us with no such comprehensive guidelines), state explicitly:

The Libraries will follow the below criteria as a guideline to remove or withdraw materials from collections. These criteria will be adapted for each subject area in consultation with subject librarians as appropriate.

**For large projects, subject selectors are expected to consult with the teaching faculty.**

The removal of 75,000+ items certainly constitute a large project.

A small committee has now been formed to look into what has been done and what was about to continue being done in removing, remotely storing, and even apparently transferring out of UT ownership the teaching and research tools that are vitally important to day-to-day scholarship and learning and indeed to the rankings of the programs affected by their loss.

In addition, a survey on library use has now been promulgated by the Vice Provost Haricombe without any broad-based prior discussion of issues, even in the Faculty Council and its committees, that would help those being polled form 'true opinions' about the topics being covered by the questions.

Paul Woodruff, recipient of the Pro Bene Meritis (2002) and Civitatis (2007) awards and former Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Director of the Plan II Honors Program has commented:

"My concern is that the survey seems to be going out to random people, not to those of us who depend for our academic life on the holdings of the library in codex form. The survey did not ask what field I am in. My only choice was humanities, which is too broad. And the questions seemed to lean toward disposing of books. I was alarmed by it."

Would you please explain:

- (1) why the relevant faculty bodies (Faculty Council Libraries Committee, Research Policy Committee and the faculties affected in their teaching, research and reputations of their programs) were not consulted on the matter of the Fine Arts Library before removal of books and materials was well underway; and
- (2) who formulated the questions for the poll distributed by Vice Provost Lorainne Haricombe?

We would also appreciate your ideas on how faculty governance bodies and their standing advisory committees going forward can best be involved in crucial decision-making.

Many thanks.

Tom Palaima, Classics  
Al Martinich, Philosophy