

Wallace L. Hall, Jr.
PRESIDENT

May 19, 2014

Paul L. Foster, Chairman
Board of Regents
The University of Texas System

via email

Dear Chairman Foster:

This letter responds to your suggestion that I resign my position on the UT System Board of Regents. Since you made the suggestion in a public forum, this letter will serve as a public response.

First, my response for the record is, I will not resign. Your attempt to pressure me by using such underhanded tactics is shameful. This is especially true given that you stated you have followed the impeachment investigation proceedings of the House Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations. Therefore, you know that the proceedings have produced no evidence of any wrongdoing on my part and, in fact, Committee Co-chair Dan Flynn told committee members in a letter on May 6, 2014 there is no evidence whatsoever to constitute grounds for my impeachment. As Chairman, you also know that UT System outside counsel Philip Hilder informed the committee on January 14 that I did not violate FERPA or any other state or federal law, and that Chancellor Cigarroa informed the committee on Feb. 1 that all of my actions relating to document requests, capital campaign accounting, and every other matter under review were proper and fully in support of UT policies and practices.

The result is that you have used your position to participate in a campaign that is intended to impugn my reputation. You have also allowed a small group of legislators to interfere in the Board's official operations, including to bind the Board to obligations you alone made regarding President Powers' continued employment, and presumably, to influence development of the new rules for Board procedures.

Second, you have no right to request my resignation. This is especially true since you stated the following about me at the same time you made your request:

- "I don't know anyone who's devoted more time per day, per week, per year than he has spent on UT issues."
- "You've asked some very legitimate questions based upon some very valid concerns--those concerns in some cases and in fact several cases, have led to needed policy change, and for that, I am very grateful."

- "I do not believe you have violated current board rules or policy, and I do not believe a vote on your service is appropriate for board consideration."
- "I'm very mindful of the personal sacrifices you've made in the name of board service and as I've told you many times, I admire your tenacity and your passion."

You have publicly acknowledged my contributions as a Board member. You should not at the same time attempt to cause my removal secretly and behind my back.

Third I serve to advance the interests of our students, faculty, and staff, and the taxpayers who fund our UT institutions--period. Your public ambush has resulted in an outpouring of support for my continued service on the Board, as well as strong support from Governor Perry for my continued efforts to improve transparency and accountability. Based on this support, I will continue my efforts to do what is right for the long-term interests of our UT institutions.

I allowed this unfortunate incident to pass without an immediate response that might have caused you embarrassment. I will not sit silently in the face of any additional statements by you that would undermine my right and obligation to serve as a regent.

Sincerely,

By: 
Wallace L. Hall, Jr.
Its: President