



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate

August 2, 2012

Dear Chancellor Hance and Regents Neal, Anders, Steinmetz, and Taylor (Members of the Academic, Clinical, and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents):

I write to you today in my capacity as President of the Faculty Senate to express what I perceive to be the views and concerns of a broad range of the faculty here at Texas Tech.

In my role as Faculty Senate President, I have had the privilege of attending each of the open session meetings of the Board of Regents. Over the course of the past year I have observed, with considerable satisfaction, the depth of your commitment to the welfare of our university. I have personally seen the outstanding manner in which the Chancellor, the Board, the President, the Provost, and the faculty have been able to work together toward our shared goal of strengthening Texas Tech. This, to me, was most vividly apparent in our ability to pull together to write new University policies regarding tenure and promotion. With mutual respect and understanding, we were able to bring this set of policies to fruition. It is by way of appeal to that mutual respect and understanding between us that I write to you today.

We now jointly face a significant crossroads. President Bailey laid out a roadmap for Texas Tech, one I know that each of you and the rest of the Board and, most assuredly, the vast majority of the faculty wish to follow. I have sensed your commitment to that direction, a direction that promises to bring our fine university into the ranks of the great institutions of higher learning in our country and the world. The question we all now encounter, with President Bailey's departure, is how best to go forward *together* down that path.

The choice of a new President will obviously be critical in our joint success in that endeavor. But perhaps even more important to the welfare of the University is the extent to which we work together at every stage of the selection process. No university can achieve or sustain greatness without the integral involvement of the faculty in pursuit of its goals, and this of course includes the process of searching for and selecting a President. After all, faculty members at this and every other university have the longest continuous connection to the institution, reside in and serve the university longer on average than any other constituent body—longer than the students, the administrators, or the Board of Regents.

However, it is not just the longevity of faculty members' connection to the University that grounds their role in governance. The importance of including faculty in the governance of the University is so vital that it is recognized in various ways in the criteria for the accreditation of universities generally. I know that Texas Tech, having lately overcome other challenges to accreditation, would not like to face such concerns again.

Finally, it probably goes without saying that faculty members, as deliverers of learning and as seekers of new knowledge, play the absolutely central role in the very mission of any university. I believe this affords the faculty a uniquely valuable perspective when it comes to maintaining and promoting the greatness of Texas Tech. Many of us have in fact nurtured that maturation over the course of decades at the University. I urge you today to avail yourselves of that perspective by substantively including the faculty at all stages of the present search process. Its success, and the long-term success of our university, will otherwise be impossible.

Please let me know how I might be able to help provide appropriate faculty participation and cooperation with you in this project.

Sincerely,

Daniel O. Nathan
President
Faculty Senate

cc: Provost Bob Smith