

FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION

September 25, 1979

The Faculty Senate of the Central Campus of the University of Houston wishes by means of this statement to express to the Board of Regents of the University of Houston its profound concern for the most recent events affecting all the University of Houston campuses and the University of Houston System as a whole.

Our fundamental concern is that our institution continue to maintain those principles of governance which have evolved as fundamental to the best interest of higher education and which prevail in the best American universities. The Board is to be complimented upon the fact that those principles are embodied in the make-up of the committee now involved in the selection of a President for the University System. This committee is made up of representatives of the student body and of both faculty and administration of all the campuses. The meaning of this committee as now constituted augurs the good health of the University in the future. When the Board selects a President from a panel of candidates proposed by this committee, the University will have a president who feels that he has appropriate presidential authority, that he has the confidence of all the elements of the University from the Student Body to the Board of Regents, and that he will be able to exercise a key function within the balance and distribution of responsibilities essential to university life in the modern world. Without the clear expectations of such confidence and authority and such balance and distribution of responsibilities, educators of real achievement and distinction absolutely will not make themselves candidates for the Presidency of the University of Houston System.

The Board merits the gratitude of everyone for the fact that until the most recent events the University could, without any doubt, expect to attract presidential candidates of real excellence. The fact which we confront at this moment is as follows: No person of proven excellence will consider a condition which includes even the slightest possibility that one of his subordinates might share or usurp his influence with the Board. No first-class presidential candidate could tolerate the suggestion of that possibility.

We therefore urge the Board to take the exceptional, clear, and immediate action necessary to assure that the expectations which have been established by the history of the University of Houston will not be gravely impaired.

We submit that nothing less than an exceptional procedure should be adopted for the selection of the Chancellor of the Downtown Campus and that such a procedure should include the following provisions:

That the following be made clear to all prospective candidates for the System Presidency:

1. No recommendations will be made to the Board concerning the appointment of a Downtown Chancellor until a new President of the System has taken office.

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2. In the single and exceptional case of the appointment of the next Chancellor of the Downtown Campus, the President of the System will have the power of veto over the panel of candidates presented by the advisory-selection-search committee before that panel goes to the Board.