



Senate Resolution on Outside Influence on Faculty Hiring and Promotion

Whereas Texas A&M University is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and an R1 academic institution with a national reputation, and

Whereas recent events have called into question the state of academic freedom at our university, and created a national perception that outside influence has interfered in the appointment of Dr. Kathleen McElroy as a full professor with tenure at the university, and

Whereas this national perception has caused significant damage to the reputation of Texas A&M University, and

Whereas this perception of the absence of faculty independence could jeopardize our standing in the AAU, and

Whereas the recent interference in curricula matters further calls into question faculty ability to preserve departmental, school, and college accreditation, and

Whereas the senate currently does not have full confidence in the Administration in matters of recruitment, hiring, tenure and promotion of faculty, and

Whereas these events are making it increasingly difficult for Texas A&M to retain and recruit talented faculty, and for current faculty to do their jobs, and

Be it known, the Faculty Senate remains skeptical and lacks confidence in answers provided by the Administration,

Now therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University requests that the President, Chancellor, and Board of Regents make clear public statements that emphasize outside interference in faculty matters is not acceptable, and

Be it further resolved that the system and university leadership resist outside influences and stand up for the faculty against inappropriate outside pressures, or the perception thereof, and

Be it further resolved that the system and university leadership support the creation of definitive processes that ensure that faculty continue to have an appropriate institutional role in shared governance as advocated by the American Association of University Professors, and

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate appoint a fact-finding committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the failed appointment mentioned above.

Ratified by the Faculty Senate on July 19, 2023

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