THE FACULTY SENATE

May 16, 1996

Dr. Ray M. Bowen
President
Texas A&M University

Dear President Bowen:

At its regular meeting held May 13, 1996 the Faculty Senate considered and approved Guidelines for Double Majors and Guidelines for Second Degrees and Double Degrees. In the fall of 1994, the Faculty Senate approved a recommendation that the university devise a policy permitting any student to pursue a double major, second degree, or double degree, provided that he or she fulfills all departmental and college criteria. The recommendation was forwarded to the Academic Operations Committee (AOC). A committee was formed but never met. At the insistence of this past year's Academic Affairs Committee (AAC), a new AOC committee was formed, with Dr. Karen Kubena chair. The AOC's guidelines were then passed to the AAC, which redrafted parts of the guidelines.

The reason for the redraft was that the AOC's version specifically stated that no college was obliged to allow a student the option of pursuing a double major, double degree, or second degree. The reason given was concern over enrollment management. The Academic Affairs Committee was not convinced that the impact would be burdensome. It also felt that we should not be punitive towards highly motivated and successful students who are pursuing specific career options. The Committee did see the need for responsible filing for a second degree or a double major or degree, and so it imposed a strict time limit.

The Faculty Senate unanimously accepted the revised guidelines, with only one editorial change. The enclosed guidelines are, we believe, responsible and responsive to the needs of our students. Please advise me of your decision on this recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

Pierce E. Cantrell
Speaker, 1995-96

Enclosures
pc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President & Provost
Dr. Sallie V. Sheppard, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Programs & Academic Services

APPROVED __________________________ DATE __________________________
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
GUIDELINES FOR DOUBLE MAJORS

1. Both majors must lead to the same baccalaureate degree, e.g., both must lead to BA or BS, rather than one leading to a BA and one to a BS. The degree for a double major is one degree; one diploma will be issued, with both majors indicated. A student must complete the requirements for both majors before the degree can be awarded.

2. A student currently enrolled at Texas A&M University must receive approval for the second major from the college offering that major no later than the semester prior to the semester of his or her graduation, and must meet the grade point requirements of the academic department of the second degree at the time of application.

3. A Change of Curriculum form, stating that the student has been approved to pursue a second major, must be sent immediately to the department or college in which the first major is located.

4. A student pursuing a double major must complete all university and college requirements. If both majors are in the same college, the student must complete all departmental/curricular requirements for each major. If one major is in one college and the other is in another college, the student must meet all requirements for each major. A list of courses required for completion of the second major must be approved by the advisor for that curriculum.

Approved by the Faculty Senate May 13, 1996 (FS.13.124)
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
GUIDELINES FOR SECOND DEGREES AND DOUBLE DEGREES

1. A student pursuing a second degree will, upon completion of all requirements, receive two separate degrees, e.g., two BAs, two BSs, or a combination of either BA, BS, BBA, BLA, or BED degree.

2. A student currently enrolled at Texas A&M University must have the specific approval of the college offering the second bachelor's degree or certification. A Change of Curriculum form, stating that the student has been approved to pursue a second degree concurrently with the first degree, must be sent immediately to the department or college in which the first degree is located.

3. A student currently enrolled at Texas A&M University must receive approval for a second bachelor's degree or certification from the college offering that degree or certification no later than the semester prior to the semester of his or her graduation, and must meet the grade point requirements of the academic department of the second degree at the time of application.

4. A student with a recognized baccalaureate degree from an institution other than Texas A&M University who wishes to complete requirements for a second baccalaureate degree at Texas A&M University or who wishes to complete established Texas A&M University certification requirements generally granted as part of an undergraduate program can be admitted only as a Postbaccalaureate Undergraduate (U5).

5. A recipient of a Texas A&M University baccalaureate degree is not eligible for continued enrollment unless he or she has the specific approval of the college offering the second bachelor's degree or certification generally granted as part of the undergraduate program. If enrollment is interrupted, the student must apply as a candidate for a second bachelor's degree.

6. A student pursuing a second degree must complete all university, college, and departmental/curricular requirements for the second degree not covered in the first.

   a. Courses may be used to satisfy the requirements for both degrees. However, the total semester hours required must be at least 30 semester hours in addition to the greater number of hours required for either degree. At least 12 hours of 300- and 400-level course work must be completed in each field of study.

   b. All essential work required for a second degree must be defined in advance in writing by the dean of the college granting the second degree.

   c. A student who has previously not been enrolled at Texas A&M University and who is seeking a second degree must have a minimum of 36 hours of 300- and 400-level courses, 12 of which must be in the major field of study, in residence at Texas A&M University. The student must also meet the Texas A&M University Citizenship requirements in history and political science.

Approved by the Faculty Senate May 13, 1996 (FS.13.125)
MEMORANDUM

TO: Professor Pierce E. Cantrell

SUBJECT: Executive Committee’s Concerns Relative To Dr. Fidel Davila

The purpose of this memorandum is to respond to your letter of April 15, 1996. I will decline the opportunity to write Dr. Davila. It is my opinion that a direct letter from me to Dr. Davila would invite the suggestion that in my heart I have been contemplating the idea that his right of speech on campus issues should be limited. Since I would never contemplate such a possibility, I wish to avoid any misunderstanding.

I do have strongly held feelings about the right of individuals to express their freedom of speech. In particular, I fully subscribe to the rights of Faculty Senators to speak freely on all issues. Please feel free to share this memorandum with Dr. Davila and any other individual or group that might need this reassurance. As an additional comment, I wish to assure you that I would be pleased to come to the defense of any Senator who was the victim of retribution by Texas A&M University for his or her senatorial comments.

I hope Dr. Davila will resume his active participation in The Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University. How his role at Texas A&M links with his employment at Scott & White does make his situation different from that of our employees. However, on the matter of his right to speak when attending Senate meetings, I hope I have made my personal views clear.

Ray M. Bowen

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas
    Dr. Elvin Smith
May 26, 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Elvin E. Smith, Interim Dean
    College of Medicine

SUBJECT: Department Head Searches

In our recent meeting in which we discussed department head searches for departments headquartered at the Reynolds Building, you affirmed that those department head searches would follow the provisions of PPM 2.5.1.5 (Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Department Heads) unless a variance is requested in advance. Any such request will be submitted to the Executive Vice President and Provost through the Dean of Faculties and will include indication of departmental faculty sentiment.

I appreciate your assistance in clarifying the issues surrounding department head searches in your college.

[Signature]

William L. Perry
Associate Provost and Dean of Faculties

xc: Ronald G. Douglas
    Pierce Cantrell
    Faculty Senate Caucus, College of Medicine
MEMORANDUM

TO:       College of Medicine Faculty

SUBJECT: Clarifications Requested by the College of Medicine Faculty Senate Caucus

The leadership of the College of Medicine Faculty Senate Caucus has asked that I clarify for the faculty to two specific issues. I am happy to do so and to reconfirm existing policies within the Health Science Center and the University. First, what are the governance documents for the College of Medicine? The College of Medicine and the Health Science Center are integral component parts of Texas A&M University. As such, all operational and governance procedures within the College are conducted in accordance with System Regulations and University Rules. University Rules are published in the Policy and Procedures Manual. The Health Science Center is governed by these two documents. In addition, the faculty members of the College of Medicine have an approved set of Bylaws. All of these documents contain operational rules and establish appropriate grievance procedures. It is the responsibility of the Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean to assure compliance with the policies as published in each of these documents.

If, at some time in the future, the Health Science Center becomes separate from the University, any changes necessitated in the aforementioned documents will involve the full shared governance procedures established for the System.

Secondly, how does the concept of academic freedom apply to faculty members who are not directly compensated by Texas A&M University? All faculty members of the College of Medicine, irrespective of their faculty location or source of pay, are fully entitled to the University privileges related to academic freedom. All faculty members are entitled to speak within the University setting and externally and are subject only to provisions of System Regulations and University Rules. It is the responsibility of the Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean to guarantee, support, and defend this freedom for all Health Science Center faculty.
Because the College of Medicine is geographically dispersed, it is often difficult to address these types of issues in a faculty meeting setting. Therefore, I am happy to respond to requests of the leadership of the College of Medicine Faculty Senate Caucus to address these issues. I will also be responsive to such requests in the future.

Elvin E. Smith, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President for Health Affairs
and Dean of Medicine

EES:tc

cc: Dr. Ray Bowen
    Dr. Ron Douglas
    Mr. Mike Harwell
    Dr. John Montgomery
Dr. Ray M. Bowen  
President  
Texas A&M University  

Dear President Bowen:

At our meeting on April 5, 1996, I discussed with you the Executive Committee's concern over the reported reaction by Interim Dean of Medicine Dr. Elvin Smith and Scott and White CEO Dr. John Montgomery to statements made by senator Fidel Davila to you at the February 1996 Faculty Senate meeting.

I have subsequently had a telephone conversation with Interim Dean Smith about this incident, and we have scheduled a meeting for April 26, 1996, to discuss this matter and issues pertaining to the applicability of the TAMU PPM to the College of Medicine. Dean Smith stated that he had contacted Dr. Montgomery in keeping with his normal practice and discussed the article in the Eagle where Senator Davila's comments and your response were reported, but he categorically denied telling Dr. Montgomery that you were angry with Senator Davila or calling for any action against Senator Davila. Also, Dr. Smith did not believe that he said in his department head council: "I have taken care of that. By the time the sun sets Davila will no longer be a senator," or words to that effect.

While members of the U.S. Congress are specifically protected by the Constitution, our Faculty Senate Constitution does not speak directly to the academic freedom of faculty members in addressing issues of institutional governance. The AAUP in its 1994 statement "On the Relationship of Faculty Governance to Academic Freedom" notes, however, that "...the protection of the academic freedom of faculty members in addressing issues of institutional governance is a prerequisite for the practice of governance unhindered by fear of retribution" and "...it is also essential that faculty members have the academic freedom to express their professional opinions without fear of reprisal."

While the particulars leading up to Dr. Montgomery's conversations with Senator Davila are uncertain, there is no doubt that Senator Davila was initially asked to be "sick" for subsequent Faculty Senate meetings and that later he was told he could attend senate meetings if he refrained from saying anything controversial. The Executive Committee appreciates the fact that you telephoned Dr. Montgomery to request that no action be taken against Senator Davila. While we know that you do not sanction actions such as these that violate the spirit of parliamentary freedom of speech and the
President Ray M. Bowen
April 15, 1996

substance of the AAUP statement, the Executive Committee requests that you send a letter to Senator Davila, with copies to Interim Dean Smith and Dr. Montgomery, assuring Davila of his right to speak freely at faculty senate meetings without fear of retribution.

Sincerely yours,

Pierce E. Cantrell
Speaker 1995-96

pc: Dr. William Perry, Associate Provost & Dean of Faculties
John,

I talked to Dean Smith at the Faculty retirement dinner last night. He said that he has a draft of a letter to send out to all faculty in the College of Medicine (I assume this included the S&W Faculty) that addresses the two issues we discussed the other day at our meeting: PPM and academic freedom w.r.t. faculty governance.

Dean Smith has a busy schedule this week, and he may not be able to get the letter out this week. I encouraged him to share a draft of the letter with me before Monday. He said he would try.

Assuming this letter is OK, how do you feel about this? My inclination if it is OK is to accept this and go on. I will do what the EC wants me to, however. I discussed procedure for an academic freedom complaint last night with Bill Perry.

-pierce
Return-Path: <pierce@cantrell.tamu.edu>
Date: Fri, 3 May 96 13:13:56 -0500
From: Pierce Cantrell <pierce@cantrell.tamu.edu>
To: ExecComm95-96
Subject: Response from President Bowen re: Senator Davila
Reply-To: Pierce Cantrell <cantrell@EESUN2.tamu.edu>

EC Members:

At my monthly meeting with President Bowen today, I asked him about the status of the letter I sent him requesting a letter be sent to Senator Fidel Davila. The President declined to send a letter directly to Senator Davila. He said that he was going to write a letter to the Speaker supporting academic freedom in faculty governance and that we could distribute it to whomever we want. He did have some reasons for why he did want to send the letter to Davila, but frankly I was not listening very well at that point.

I told him that this might well result in a formal academic freedom grievance. He said that he understood that. At the meeting we had last Friday with Interim Dean Smith. Smith was concerned that such a grievance might affect the affiliation agreement between S&W and TAMU. The President said today that he did not believe that such a grievance would have any affect on the affiliation agreement. The President did express some concern that this might have some affect on the Dean's search process in the College of Medicine that is currently underway, however.

Please let me know how you want me to proceed. I intend to investigate with Bill Perry the proper procedure for filing such a grievance.

regards,
-pierce
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Ray M. Bowen  
President

FROM: Dr. Pierce E. Cantrell  
Speaker, 1995-96

SUBJECT: Nominations for 1996-97 Athletic Council Members

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate would like to nominate Drs. Stanley Carpenter, Educational Administration, and Marilyn Kern-Foxworth, Department of Journalism, for the open positions on the Athletic Council.

Thank you for proving us the opportunity of having input into the selection process for the Athletic Council.

pc: Dr. D. Stanley Carpenter  
Dr. Marilyn Kern-Foxworth
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President and Provost
    Faculty Senate Executive Committee
    Dr. William L. Fuerst, Chair, Athletic Council
    Dr. Thomas W. Adair, Faculty Athletic Representative

SUBJECT: Nominations for 1996-97 Athletic Council Members

Dr. Alvin Larke, Jr., Agricultural Education, and Dr. Norris Stubbs, Civil Engineering, are completing two terms (six years) on the Athletic Council as faculty representatives.

Please send your nominations for these positions to Ms. Sheran Riley, Assistant to the President, by Monday, May 13, 1996. New members need to be in place by May 31. If you require additional information, please contact Ms. Riley at 845-2217. Thank you for your assistance.

Ray M. Bowen