

Ron J. Anderson, M.D., RPh
Senior Advisor to the CEO
Parkland Health & Hospital System
2777 N. Stemmons Freeway, #1700
Dallas, Texas 75207

December 24, 2012

Mr. Jack Wall
Chairman, UNT System Board of Regents
1901 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75201

Re: Dr. Ransom

Dear Chairman Wall,

The University of North Texas Health Science Center Board of Visitors was chartered by the UNT System Board of Regents to support the strategic direction of the UNT Health Science Center through the collective wisdom and expertise of national and regional leaders with diverse perspectives ranging from medicine, public health, research, clinical practice, community engagement, politics, foundations and osteopathic medicine. We understand that we are not a policy setting body and that we are outside parties when it comes to personnel matters. We had representation available in Ft. Worth, Friday, when you collectively took the action to terminate Dr. Scott Ransom. If we had been allowed the opportunity to speak on his behalf, we would have told you that he in no way manipulated or guided us in the conclusion we reached that the merger between UNT-Denton and UNTSHC- Ft. Worth was not obviously beneficial to the latter institution and its relationship to the Ft. Worth community. We were asked by the Board of Visitors as the elected Chair and Co-Chair to convey that message in a letter to Chancellor Jackson. The opinions expressed in the letter were unanimous from those present Board of Visitors at a special called meeting. Dr. Ransom would not tell us his preference for, or against, the merger, but did provide the Task Force report from employees appointed by Chancellor Jackson and several articles or reports from successful, and not so successful, mergers of a similar nature.

As members of the Board of Visitors, we may not be fully informed, but we do know what happened in our interactions with Dr. Ransom on this issue. He was professional, open, and never disloyal or disparaging of his Chancellor or of the Regents. He told us he would work with them to come to the best conclusion possible for the UNTSHC-Ft. Worth. This seemed reasonable in every way and a part of his job in our opinion. Because Dr. Ransom did behave honorably we must strenuously protest his termination by the Board of Regents. During his six years as president Dr. Ransom has been an outstanding leader, carrying the institution to great and unprecedented heights and national recognition. Based upon his record of achievement and our experience with his handling of recent issues, we strongly recommend that the Board of Regents reconsider their action against Dr. Ransom and re-explore all of the facts related to the situation.

The purpose of the Board of Visitors is to support thoughtful analysis and consideration of future possibilities and strategic opportunities. Dr. Ransom presented an honest, neutral and professional demeanor in considering these strategic priorities and assessing future opportunities. Dr. Ransom did not attempt to sway our opinion or perspectives to one side or another. In our prior experience with Dr. Ransom, he has always had a commitment to finding the most optimal path forward to make his institution even better which is at least part of the reason for the record breaking success of UNT Health Science Center these past six years. This time was no different for us.

The action taken against Dr. Ransom is counter to our charter and has the potential to eliminate needed trust among leaders, faculty and volunteers who may have to face other challenging situations in the

future. On many occasions in the meetings of the Board of Visitors, we have had the opportunity to hear from Chancellor Jackson and to get his views of important strategic issues. We were not afforded that opportunity in this discussion. Some of us know Chancellor Jackson and have worked with him in other capacities for many years. In our prior interactions, he too has always placed the good of the UNT system above his own personal needs. The current situation is very regrettable and a “no-win” for both Dr. Ransom and Chancellor Jackson. We do not want to exacerbate the pain, but feel we must ask for you and the Board of Regents to reconsider the actions taken against Dr. Ransom. If you cannot re-instate him then we would ask that you do what you can to ameliorate the situation by acknowledging his contributions and legacy at UNTHSC-Ft. Worth.

I believe that the Board of Visitors as a group, and individual members, provided valuable advice and counsel to President Ransom. They were a pleasure to work with and get to know. We hope we brought value and not dissention. If we did the latter, it was never meant to be. We wish the UNTHSC-Ft. Worth well in the coming years. It is an incredible success story and an institution worthy of all the support the community of Ft. Worth has bestowed on it under Dr. Ransom’s leadership. We pray that support will continue and grow.

Yours truly,

Chairman
Ron J. Anderson, M.D., RPh