



Office of the  
Executive Vice President and Provost

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

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November 18, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

Attached are the revised guidelines for school bylaws approved by the Academic Senate at its meeting of September 18, 2013.

Our first guidelines for school bylaws were developed in 2002, at Senate initiative. The problem at the time was that we had a well-defined faculty governance system at the university level, but had nothing comparable for the schools, and hence no clear way to connect policies and organizations at the university to faculty activities in the schools. Since the problem was mainly considered to be a matter of faculty governance, rather than administration, the bylaws guidelines focused mainly on faculty organizations and said as little as possible about school level administration.

Experience since then has shown that we need to say more about administration, and most especially about the interface between administration and faculty. We have also had new procedures and policies introduced, such as post-tenure review and its linkage to annual reviews, that require new or adjusted processes at the school level.

Accordingly, these revised guidelines reflect a more concerted effort to assure that governance is genuinely shared and to find a more satisfactory balance between transparency and accountability, openness and the ability to act efficiently and decisively.

Please reconsider your current bylaws and revise them in this general spirit.

When the original guidelines were issued, they were accompanied by guidelines for departmental bylaws as well. These should still be largely applicable, but we will now begin a review at the university level to see if any adjustments are needed.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Hobson Wildenthal' and the second is 'Murray J. Leaf'.

Hobson Wildenthal  
Executive Vice President and Provost

Murray J. Leaf  
Speaker of the Faculty