

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 349

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry R. Faulkner has announced plans to retire
2 as president of The University of Texas at Austin, and his departure
3 brings to a close a most distinguished tenure at that institution;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The 27th president of UT-Austin, Dr. Faulkner
6 assumed his present post on April 13, 1998; he has won widespread
7 respect, within and outside of the 40 Acres community, for raising
8 even further the stature of UT as a research university, as well as
9 for laying an impressively solid foundation for future development;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Faulkner's leadership, the Commission of
12 125, a group of alumni and citizens, completed a long-term
13 strategic plan for the university, and the largest fund-raising
14 drive in the school's history brought in more than \$1.6 billion; Dr.
15 Faulkner has also reorganized and modernized the university's
16 administration and installed a structure to foster effective
17 long-range planning; and

18 WHEREAS, During his presidency, the university has
19 established a number of new academic programs, among them the
20 Center for Nano and Molecular Science and Technology, the
21 Department of Biomedical Engineering, the Jackson School of
22 Geosciences, the School of Life Sciences, and the Institute of
23 Computational Engineering and Sciences; moreover, the university
24 has provided leadership at the state and national levels in

1 advanced computer networking for the support of research and
2 education; in 2001, to meet growing instructional needs, UT took
3 the first steps to add a total of 300 new members to its faculty; and

4 WHEREAS, President Faulkner has also overseen initiatives
5 reflecting the global concerns of the university, such as the
6 establishment of the South Asia Institute and the Center for
7 Argentine Studies; the launching of the Argentine center further
8 advances the ambition of the university to become the foremost
9 academic center for Latin American studies in the United States;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Over the course of Dr. Faulkner's tenure, the
12 university has expanded its world-renowned resources through the
13 acquisition of several superb art collections, together with the
14 Norman Mailer, *Newsweek* magazine, and Woodward-Bernstein Watergate
15 archives; and

16 WHEREAS, The campus has also seen extensive renovation of the
17 Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium and the Harry Ransom
18 Humanities Research Center, along with the construction of major
19 academic, athletic, residential, and museum facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, Spurred by Dr. Faulkner's emphasis on undergraduate
21 education, the university has set new records in the retention of
22 freshmen, student progress toward the completion of degrees, and
23 graduation rates; at the same time, notable benchmarks have been
24 inscribed by the freshman class of 2003, which ranked as the most
25 academically qualified in the school's history, and the freshman
26 class of 2004, which ranked as the most diverse; and

27 WHEREAS, To promote participation in the life of the

1 university among all segments of the state's population, UT has
2 created innovative admissions and financial aid programs,
3 developed an interactive website offering access to its research,
4 teaching, and treasures, and hosted an annual campus-wide open
5 house; Dr. Faulkner has also appointed a diverse university
6 leadership and worked tirelessly to engage with citizens and
7 communities across the length and breadth of Texas; and

8 WHEREAS, Recognizing the special obligation that public
9 universities have to their respective states, President Faulkner
10 has encouraged assistance to public education as an appropriate and
11 vital contribution to the community at large; such efforts by
12 UT-Austin include, in addition to formal academic and outreach
13 programs, the establishment of the National Center for Educational
14 Accountability, which promotes best practices, and the creation of
15 a demonstration elementary school, which serves primarily African
16 American and Latino students; and

17 WHEREAS, Before assuming the presidency of UT-Austin, Dr.
18 Faulkner taught at Harvard University and spent 25 years at the
19 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he held the
20 offices of provost, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and
21 head of the Department of Chemistry; a productive scholar who has
22 been honored on numerous occasions for his research, he was elected
23 in 2003 to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and

24 WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Austin has gained
25 immeasurably from Dr. Faulkner's incisive leadership, deep
26 experience, and passionate commitment to the mission of higher
27 education, and the legacy of his achievements will continue to

1 enrich the people of this state for years to come; now, therefore,
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
4 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby honor Dr. Larry R. Faulkner
5 for his eminent service as president of The University of Texas at
6 Austin and extend to him sincere best wishes for the years ahead;
7 and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Dr. Faulkner as an expression of high regard by the
10 Texas House of Representatives.