

To the Faculty Senate,

Last April, three departments whose Faculty comprise about half of the total number of Faculty in the College of Science took the unprecedented action of voting on a resolution of NO CONFIDENCE in the leadership of the Dean of the College. This was conveyed to the Provost, with a request that he meet in April with the Faculty in those departments to discuss this critical issue. Provost Rice declined to do this. In the nearly five months since this request, relations between the Dean and the Faculty of these departments have only worsened.

In order for the Faculty Senate to comprehend more fully the matter concerning this vote of NO CONFIDENCE, I will read the main body of the letter that was sent to the Provost by the Faculty of the three departments on April 13.

Provost Rice:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the outcome of a recent vote in several departments in the College of Science. Please recall that in January and February of 2008, the departments of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics met and each passed, by overwhelming majority votes (10-0 in Computer Science, 12-0 in Physics, and 20-3 in Math), a resolution which requested that you, acting as Provost, instruct Dean Means to familiarize himself with the policies of the College of Science and apply them properly. The resolutions were all very similar, and the exact wording of the resolution that was passed in Computer Science and Mathematics was as follows:

*Due to recent actions of the Dean of the College of Science concerning hiring, interacting with Chairs, and reviewing Promotion and Tenure, we, as members of the College of Science, request the Provost to instruct the Dean of the College of Science to familiarize himself with the rules and regulations found in the operating papers of the College and the individual departments, as well as other policies governing the University, and apply them properly.*

Since that time, numerous incidents have occurred that provide clear evidence that both the spirit and the letter of this resolution has been ignored by Dean Means. These incidents led to the same three departments meeting and voting on the resolution below.

*Due to the continuous and ongoing pattern of a lack of collegiality and communication, unfair treatment of and malign indifference to departmental concerns, a lack of knowledge and/or lack of proper consideration of policies and procedures of the College and University, and administrative threats against the well being of our departments, it is with deep regret that the Departments of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics are forced to express that they have NO CONFIDENCE in the ability of Dean Jay Means to lead the College of Science. In addition, the above departments request a joint meeting with Provost Rice during April 2009 to discuss this critical issue.*

The votes in the departments have taken place, and the tallies were as follows: Computer Science 7-2 for the resolution, Mathematics 23-0 for the resolution, and Physics 10-0 for the resolution. Because the resolution was passed by a total vote of 40-2 in the three departments, the faculty of those departments are hereby requesting a joint meeting with you this month to discuss Dean Means and his managing of the College of Science.

Sincerely,

The faculty of the departments of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics.