

September 7, 2012

Steve Thomas
Associate Professor, University Libraries
648G John C. Hodges Library
Campus

Vincent A. Anfara, Jr.
Professor and Department Head
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
325 Bailey Education Complex
Campus

Re: Faculty Senate Resolution on Support for Benefit Equality

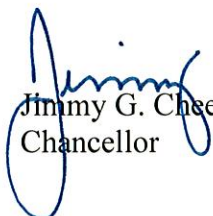
Dear Steve and Vince:

We have reviewed the Faculty Senate Resolution on Support for Benefit Equality, adopted on April 2, 2012, and offer this response.


We hope you understand that in our positions as leaders of an agency of the State of Tennessee, it is incumbent upon us to act consistently with the public policy of our state. We believe that the three specific proposals for domestic partner benefit equality outlined in the operative clauses of the resolution are inconsistent with the public policy of our state expressed in constitutional and statutory provisions.

We respect the role of the Faculty Senate and assure you that we give careful consideration to issues raised by faculty and staff. Diversity is an important value at UT, and we want our campus to be welcoming to all and hostile to none. Thank you for the role you play on our campus.

Sincerely,


Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor

Sincerely,


Larry R. Arrington
Chancellor, UT Institute of Agriculture