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TEXAS
ARLINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

10/14/2019

To: Mr. Mike Peppers
UT System, Chief Audit Executive

From: Vistasp M. Karbhari, President
The University of Texas at Arlington

V. M. Karbhari
10/14/19.

Ref: Response to the draft "University of Texas System Internal Investigation Report" dated August 22, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a management response to the Protiviti investigation report. The report was only shared with Shelby Boseman, UTA Chief Legal Officer, and David Price, UTA Chief Audit Executive, as you requested. Mr. Boseman and I worked on the response, although we collected information from UTA employees and departments due to a lack of verification, and use of factually incorrect information, in the report. We are confused, at your explicit instructions, in the email through which you provided a copy of the report, that the report is not up for "agreement or disagreement with Protiviti's conclusions", as we believe this is standard process for audits/investigations to ensure accuracy and clarify any misinterpretations, prior to finalizing a report.

UTA categorically denies the allegations made in the report. We hoped to provide a short response, but the investigation report is so flawed due to a lack of evidence, insufficient fact gathering, use of factually inaccurate data, and mischaracterizations, that it is impossible to give it any credence and should be rejected outright. We are confident, that after reviewing UTA's response, combined with concerns System Audit must also undoubtedly have, you'll agree that the investigation needs to be corrected at minimum, if not closed for a lack of any substantiable findings.

As requested, we do have several questions regarding the report and have provided some clarification with our questions. To make things easier we have cited the page and language for which we have questions. Because the Executive Summary repeats the findings in the report, our questions are primarily in regard to the report rather than the Executive Summary, but because of the differences in some points raised in the report we are addressing it page-by-page. Thus, there is a level of repetition although, wherever possible, we have provided cross-references and indicated a common point rather than repeat it.

Please note that in line with your direction, we have limited our input but would like to emphasize that we have additional details, documentation, and related evidence to share should you have any questions or need additional information to further support our findings that the investigation was deeply flawed and that the allegations are unsubstantiated.

Thank you again for allowing UTA to participate in this process to ensure that there is a final report that is accurate, thorough, and supported by factual evidence.