

1 April 21, 2011

2 **S.R. 1101**

3

4 **Title: Calling for the Creation of the Academic Project Endowment**

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6 **WHEREAS,** The University of Texas at Austin has many student organizations that enhance
7 the University's reputation, nurture well-rounded students, and increase graduate
8 competitiveness; and,

9

10 **WHEREAS,** Many student organizations have academic and professional opportunities,
11 relevant to majors, career paths and resume building; and,

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13 **WHEREAS,** Students active in organizations hold a substantial advantage in their given field,
14 due to the experience and relationships gained through student organizations; and,

15

16 **WHEREAS,** The McCombs School of Business, School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy,
17 College of Liberal Arts, College of Natural Sciences, College of Nursing, and
18 College of Communications cite "extra-curricular activities" as a criteria in
19 admission decisions¹; and,

20

21 **WHEREAS,** The University of Texas can substantially increase its reputation and appeal by
22 increasing their support of nationally recognized competitive activities, outside of
23 those currently offered; and,

24

25 **WHEREAS,** The Commission of 125 states that "citizens can rightly expect this flagship
26 University to... Extend educational opportunities and access by new methods."²;
27 and,

28

29 **WHEREAS,** The Commission of 125 further states that "a comprehensive national and
30 international communications and public affairs effort will gain much additional
31 exposure,"³; and,

32

33 **WHEREAS,** The Commission of 125 states "the commission recommends that The University
34 seek to provide all students with leadership opportunities. Student participation in
35 campus and community organizations and public service has always had a major
36 influence on the development of leadership skills on campus. The University

¹<http://www.google.com/cse?cx=002647177879855297757:8d2wy5zl5my&cof=FORID:0&site=search=registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/ug08-10/&q=extra+curricular&sa=go>

²http://www.utexas.edu/com125/final/operational14_16.html

³http://www.utexas.edu/com125/final/operational14_16.html

37 should take steps to foster even greater student participation and supplement these
38 experiences with opportunities to learn leadership skills”⁴; and,
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40 **WHEREAS,** The Commission of 125 further asks the university to “identify opportunities to
41 collaborate with programs,”⁵; and,
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43 **WHEREAS,** The Ohio State University study entitled “Facilitating the Alumni Experience”
44 found that “Aspects of the organizational experience identified by both active and
45 alumni members that influenced their desired and actual involvement as an
46 alumnus were defined roles and responsibilities of membership, transmission of
47 traditions and use of symbols throughout generations, exclusiveness of the
48 organization and clearly articulated forms of alumni engagement.”⁶; and,
49

50 **WHEREAS,** A study at California State University Sacramento, found that “Students achieved
51 much higher rates of retention and graduation, better GPAs, and higher good
52 standing rates” when involved in student organizations⁷; and
53

54 **WHEREAS,** The University of Texas currently funds individual programs on a college by
55 college basis without direct student input; and
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57 **WHEREAS,** While students can fund “The Student Endowed Centennial Lectureship (SECL)
58 is an endowed organization, supported by the \$2 (which the SECL has voted to
59 increase to \$3) student contribution through registration”⁸; and
60

61 **WHEREAS,** The current budget crisis has brought to light the precarious position that many
62 student organization are in and the effect that even minor cuts can have; and ;
63 therefore, be it,
64

65 **RESOLVED,** The Academic Project Endowment (APE) and Student Organization Endowment
66 Appropriations Committee (APEAC) shall be established and funded through two
67 dollar optional registration fees; be it further,
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69 **RESOLVED,** The Senate of College Councils shall establish a Student Organization
70 Endowment Appropriation Committee, application forms, and inform individual
71 colleges of the enactment of the program; be it further,
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73 **RESOLVED,** The SOEAC, shall review student organizations and appropriate funds, as
74 available, from the Student Organization Endowment to support Academic
75 Projects of Student Organizations; be it further,
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⁴ http://www.utexas.edu/com125/final/operational8_13.html

⁵ http://www.utexas.edu/com125/final/operational5_7.html

⁶ <http://etd.ohiolink.edu/send-pdf.cgi/Nailos%20Jennifer.pdf?osu1242679383>

⁷ <http://www.csus.edu/oir/Assessment/Non-academic%20Program%20Assessment/Student%20Activities/Student%20Activity%20Report%202009.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.utexas.edu/universityunions/student-events-center/committees-organizations/secl>

77 **RESOLVED,** In order to be eligible for funding, the student organization must be in good
78 standing and registered with the University of Texas, as determined by Student
79 Activities and Leadership Development (SALD); be it further,
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81 **RESOLVED,** That this resolution be sent to V. Shelby Stanfield Associate Vice President for
82 Student Affairs and Registrar, Soncia Reagins-Lilly at the Office of the Dean of
83 Students and Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, the Student
84 Services Budget Committee, Student Activities and Leadership Development,
85 Steven Leslie at the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Mary
86 Knight Associate Vice President and Budget Director, Natalie Stanco Student
87 Relations for Texas Exes, and The Office of Development.
88

89 **Authors:** Alex Jones (At Large Representative, Fundraising Committee, University of
90 Texas Senate of College Councils)
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92 **Sponsors:** Undergraduate Business Council