

1 October 27, 2011

2 **S.R. 1107**

3
4 **Title: In Support of Adding Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs to Tenure**
5 **Considerations**

6
7 **WHEREAS,** The University of Texas at Austin has invested in offering students a wide
8 spectrum of opportunities to study abroad and ranks as one of the top 10
9 universities in the U.S. in number of students sent abroad¹, and

10
11 **WHEREAS,** In May of 2011, President Powers expressed the need to improve the four year
12 graduation rates and prioritized this issue by the creation of a task force, and

13
14 **WHEREAS,** Findings from the dissertation of Dr. Heather Barclay Hamir demonstrated that
15 while only 45% of students who did not participate in study abroad graduated in 4
16 years, 60% of study abroad participants graduated in four years², and

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18 **WHEREAS,** The University of Texas offers faculty-led study abroad programs that are defined
19 as “study abroad programs [that] are usually led by one or more UT faculty
20 members” and are designated by the Study Abroad as Maymasters and Faculty-
21 Led Study Abroad, and

22
23 **WHEREAS,** Faculty-led study abroad programs provide students with an opportunity to go
24 abroad that is accommodating of a rigid degree plan, and

25
26 **WHEREAS,** Faculty-led study abroad programs are attractive to students because they are able
27 to take prescribed courses abroad that will transfer directly as UT course credit,
28 and

29
30 **WHEREAS,** In Summer 2011, 850 students participated in a faculty-led study abroad program,
31 and none of the faculty-led study abroad programs provided by the Study Abroad
32 Office were canceled due to low enrollment, demonstrating a high demand for
33 these courses, and

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35 **WHEREAS,** The Quality Enhancement Plan states that, “the intellectual climate of the
36 university and student success improve when students and faculty connect outside
37 the classroom on academic endeavors.”³ Faculty and students are afforded the

¹Heather Hamir Dissertation, main findings

² Heather Hamir Dissertation, main findings

³ The Quality Enrichment Plan, page 20.

38 opportunity to foster such connections through participation in faculty-led study
39 abroad programs, and
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41 **WHEREAS,** Under the Tenured and Tenure Track General Guidelines⁴ published by the Office
42 of the Vice President and Provost, the Budget Council takes into consideration
43 “the candidate’s willingness to teach courses for which there is strong student
44 demand”⁵ when reviewing professors for tenure, and
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46 **WHEREAS,** The addition of faculty-led study abroad programs to considerations of tenure
47 review would incentivize faculty to participate and create such programs, thus
48 offering more students the opportunity to study abroad, and
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50 **WHEREAS,** The position of tenure is a prestigious position at the University of Texas at
51 Austin, and tenure candidates are expected to have made “contributions of
52 appropriate magnitude and distinction in teaching, research, and service,”⁶ and,
53

54 **WHEREAS,** The Tenured and Tenure Track General Guidelines are published annually and
55 outline the considerations that are taken into account by the office of the Vice
56 President and Provost and the Budget Council when reviewing candidates for
57 tenure,
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59 **WHEREAS,** Under the “TEACHING” subheading of Tenured and Tenure Track General
60 Guidelines, specifically lists aspects of a tenure candidate’s teaching performance
61 that are to be noted in the tenure review process; therefore, be it,
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63 **RESOLVED,** That faculty-led study abroad experiences organized and implemented by faculty
64 who are candidates for tenure promotion are recognized during consideration for
65 being awarded tenure; therefore be it further,
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67 **RESOLVED,** That leading a faculty-led study abroad be added to the Tenured and Tenure Track
68 General Guidelines document under the “Teaching” sub heading; therefore be it
69 further,
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71 **RESOLVED,** That this new component of the Tenured and Tenure Track General Guidelines
72 document will not mandate the presence of participation in faculty-led study
73 abroad in the past teaching performance of a tenure candidate, but instead provide
74 an opportunity to further evidence a professor’s dedication to teaching; therefore,
75 be it further,
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⁴ Full title: GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND
MANAGEMENT OF *NON-TENURE TRACK* PROMOTION FILES

⁵ GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND MANAGEMENT OF
NON-TENURE TRACK PROMOTION FILES, page 4.

⁶GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND MANAGEMENT OF
NON-TENURE TRACK PROMOTION FILES, page 1

77 **RESOLVED,** That this addition to the Tenured and Tenure Track General Guidelines document
78 increases the accessibility of study abroad by expanding opportunities for students
79 wishing to participate in study abroad; therefore, be it further,
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81 **RESOLVED,** That this resolution be sent to the Faculty Council, the University Budget Council,
82 the Study Abroad Office, the Office of Vice President and Provost, Director of the
83 Study Abroad Office Heather Hamir, Assistant Director of the Study Abroad
84 Office Heather Thompson, Vice Provost Gretchen Ritter, Vice Provost for Higher
85 Education Policy and Research Harrison Keller, Vice Provost Janet Ellzey, Chair
86 of the Faculty Council Alan Friedman, and all college and school department
87 chairs.
88

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