

1 October 27, 2011

2 **S.R. 1108**

3
4 **Title: In Support of the Creation of a Medical Humanities Certificate Program**

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6 **WHEREAS,** In 2009, 658 students sought admission to medical school from the University of
7 Texas at Austin and 58% were accepted, 119 students sought admission to dental
8 school from the University of Texas and 47.8% were accepted¹, and in 2011 15%
9 of students who were accepted into the Texas PharmD program received previous
10 degrees from the University of Texas at Austin²; and,

11
12 **WHEREAS,** The university currently offers certificate programs, in which students complete
13 up to 18 hours of coursework from a pre-approved list of specific courses to
14 graduate with a certificate in Business Foundations, Core Texts and Ideas, and
15 many other areas; and,

16
17 **WHEREAS,** Earning a certificate in a particular area can help a student achieve their academic
18 and occupational goals by supplementing the requirements for their major with
19 courses in which they are interested; and,

20
21 **WHEREAS,** Baylor University,³ University of Missouri,⁴ and University of South Carolina⁵
22 currently offer medical humanities programs aimed at pre-health profession
23 students that require a student to take up to 18 hours of courses from a pre-
24 approved course list⁶; and,

25
26 **WHEREAS,** At Baylor University about 130 PreMed students seek admission into Medical
27 School and around 60-65% are accepted, and around 20 students seek admission
28 into Dental School and over 70% are accepted⁷, and;

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30
31 **WHEREAS,** Many of the courses that could be included in the curriculum of the program are
32 currently found in the UT course catalog, such as **PHL 303M** (Philosophy of
33 Mind and Body), **S354K** (Sociology of Health and Illness), **CC306M**
34 (Introduction to Medical and Scientific Terms), **PBH334** (Global Health);⁸ and,

¹ <http://cns.utexas.edu/careers/health-professions/>

² Data not available for acceptance rate into Masters and PhD programs in Social Work.

³ http://www.baylor.edu/medical_humanities/news.php

⁴ <http://www.slu.edu/x29342.xml>

⁵ http://bulletin.sc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=2669&returnto=1873

⁷ http://www.baylor.edu/medical_humanities/index.php?id=33279

⁸ UT Office of the Registrar website

35 **WHEREAS,** The Ethics of Health Care Certificate offered through the Bridging Discipline
36 Program Ethics and Leadership Track requires only 6 out of 19 total required
37 hours fall in the area of HealthCare Ethics and 6 to 9 hours must be acquired from
38 an internship or independent research, making it significantly different from the
39 proposed certificate program,⁹
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41 **WHEREAS,** Presidents Powers mentioned in his State of the University Address that
42 Chancellor Cigarroa “emphasized health and medical education in Texas, and he
43 made reference to both South Texas and Austin as particular areas of focus;”¹⁰
44 and,
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46 **WHEREAS,** Powers also noted that UT Austin continues to work toward the goal of
47 establishing a medical school, saying that “we can do so in a way that avoids the
48 fear that it will undermine some of our academic programs, especially those in the
49 humanities and social sciences;”¹¹ and,
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51 **WHEREAS,** A Medical Humanities Certificate Program would augment the strength of the
52 Science Programs at UT with the strength of the humanities programs at UT to lay
53 an undergraduate foundation for a graduate education in pharmacy, nursing,
54 medicine, or any academic area that deals with patient rights, including social
55 work; therefore, be it,
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57 **RESOLVED,** That the Senate of College Councils supports of the creation of a Medical
58 Humanities Certificate Program in the College of Liberal Arts; and be it further,
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60 **RESOLVED,** That earning such a certificate would require the student to take 18 total hours
61 from a specific list of pre-approved courses, 9 hours of which should come from
62 three separate courses in each of the following three fields: medical history,
63 medical ethics, and medical philosophy; and be it further,
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65 **RESOLVED,** That this resolution be sent to Vincent Shelby Stanfield, Registrar; Gretchen
66 Ritter, Vice Provost; Harrison Keller, Vice Provost of Higher Education Policy
67 and Research; Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President; Jeanette Herman,
68 director, Bridging Disciplines Program; and all college deans.
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⁹ <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp/programs/el/requirements>

¹⁰ <http://www.utexas.edu/events/sotu/address>

¹¹ <http://www.utexas.edu/events/sotu/address>

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85 UT Nursing Students Association
86 Social Work Council