

1 October 27, 2011

2 **S.R. 1109**

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4 **Title: In Support of a Consistent Faculty Peer Review System**

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6 **WHEREAS,** As a University of the first class, the University of Texas at Austin should strive  
7 to have the most distinguished professors interacting with and teaching students in  
8 order to foster intellectual development, and;

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10 **WHEREAS,** The Boyer Report states, “The institutional goal of research universities should be  
11 a balanced system in which each scholar, faculty member or student learns in a  
12 campus environment that nurtures explorations and creativity on the part of every  
13 member,” and;

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15 **WHEREAS,** The Commission of 125 states, “A disciplined culture of excellence requires  
16 accountability. The administration must implement systems by which  
17 performance of every program is evaluated consistently and rigorously and those  
18 individuals responsible for excellence are held accountable,” and;

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20 **WHEREAS,** A frequent, reported and constructive peer review system would foster faculty  
21 excellence, and;

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23 **WHEREAS,** Such dialogue would help create a teaching culture through which professors  
24 evaluate their own performance and that of others to help improve the teaching  
25 environment within their classroom, improving the overall quality of teaching  
26 within each college and the quality of education at our institution, and;’

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28 **WHEREAS,** Interdisciplinary dialogue and constructive criticism would provide feedback that  
29 would help professors stay up to date with the latest pedagogical and  
30 technological methods employed in the classroom and provide students with the  
31 best educational experience

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33 **WHEREAS,** While Course Instructor Surveys play a necessary and essential role in voicing the  
34 opinions and educational experiences of students, a more prevalent peer review  
35 system would provide instructional critiques and enforce student feedback given  
36 in these surveys, and;

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38 **WHEREAS,** Applying a more frequent and defined method for evaluation of teachers would  
39 also provide a more complete record of professor’s performance, and;

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41 **WHEREAS,** Eleven of the University of Texas’ comparison schools require peer review at all  
42 departmental levels, and;

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**WHEREAS,** A constant and reported process of peer review is not used in every college at UT Austin and; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** The Senate of College Councils recommends that a frequent peer review system be implemented in every department of every college in order to improve the classroom experience for students, and; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the method of implementation should be left up to each individual department of every college, and; therefore, be it further,

**RESOLVED,** This method of faculty peer review would be used for tenured professors, tenure-track professors, associate professors, and lecturers, and; therefore, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this resolution be sent to Vice-Provost Gretchen Ritter, Paul Woodruff, Dean Undergraduate Studies, All Department Chairs, Chair of Faculty Council Alan Friedman, each College’s Human Resources Directors

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