

1 November 10, 2011

2 **S.R. 1110**

3
4 **Title: In Support of Study Abroad Curriculum Integration Packets**

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6 **WHEREAS,** Many students at the University of Texas at Austin choose to study abroad as
7 evidenced by UT ranking amongst the top 10 universities in the number of
8 students sent abroad¹; and,

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10 **WHEREAS,** A common grievance of students desiring to study abroad is a lack of centralized
11 information concerning the integration of a study abroad experience into their
12 degree requirements; and,

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14 **WHEREAS,** The Commission of 125 calls for “informed advising [that] can help students
15 avoid enrolling in courses that do not fulfill degree requirements” and asserts that
16 such advising “enrich[es] learning by tailoring The University experience to the
17 needs and interests of individual students²”; and,

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19 **WHEREAS,** Comparison schools such as the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and the
20 University of Illinois-Urbana Champagne currently offer department-specific
21 advising sheets for study abroad programs, which allow students to understand
22 which study abroad programs correlate directly with their specific major; and,

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24 **WHEREAS,** Approximately twenty private and public universities are developing course
25 integration packets, which model an established major-specific packet developed
26 by the University of Minnesota; and,

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28 **WHEREAS,** The Study Abroad Office (SAO) is currently coordinating an initiative to publish
29 curriculum integration packets in order to provide students detailed information
30 on study abroad opportunities for their respective major; and,

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32 **WHEREAS,** As packets are completed, an electronic version will be published under the
33 “Study Abroad by Major” page on the SAO website; and,

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35 **WHEREAS,** Through collaboration with the College of Communication, the SAO has
36 completed a study abroad curriculum integration packet for the Radio, Television,
37 and Film major, and desires to create similar packets for additional majors across
38 campus; and,

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¹ Heather Hamir, Main Findings

² Commission of 125, page 26

40 **WHEREAS,** There exists strong student support for this project because students find course
41 integration packets by major to be an invaluable resource while planning for study
42 abroad; and,
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44 **WHEREAS,** Administrators in the SAO require the assistance of the colleges and departments
45 in order to tailor study abroad curriculum integration packets optimally to a
46 particular major; therefore, be it,
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48 **RESOLVED,** That the Senate of College Councils believes that study abroad curriculum
49 integration packets are the best available method for aiding students in planning a
50 potential study abroad experience and that they will help to break the stigma of
51 study abroad being incompatible to degree plans; and be if further,
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53 **RESOLVED,** That the Senate of College Councils requests the support of individual
54 departments and majors through collaboration with the SAO in designing study
55 abroad course integration packets; and be it further,
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57 **RESOLVED,** That this resolution be sent to all college deans and department chairs, the Office
58 of the Vice President and Provost, Director of the Study Abroad Office Dr.
59 Heather Barclay Hamir, Assistant Director of the Study Abroad Office Heather
60 Thompson, Vice Provost Gretchen Ritter, and Vice Provost Janet Elzey.
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