



OFFICE OF THE SENATE OF COLLEGE COUNCILS

100-C W. Dean Keeton St.
SSB 4.206
Austin, TX 78712

Tel: (512) 471-3166
Fax: (512) 471-3408
www.utsenate.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Michael Morton

April 26, 2010

(512) 639-3631

Senate Seeks Student Input, Transparency in Budget Cuts with Resolution

(AUSTIN) – During its final General Assembly meeting of the spring semester on Thursday, April 29, the Senate of College Councils will vote on S.R. 1001: In Support of Student Involvement and Transparency in Reductions to Academic Opportunities.

Authored by Senate Policy Director David Liu, Academic Enrichment Committee Co-Chair Emily Van Duyn and Curriculum Committee Co-Chair Kelly Zhang, the Resolution “strongly encourages University administrators, when making decisions that reduce the quality and quantity of student academic opportunities, to actively solicit student input at the departmental and college levels” and “requests that University administrators provide a publicly accessible explanation to students whenever cuts are made to academic programs that limit the academic opportunities available to them.”

“S.R. 1001, while acknowledging the reality of budget reductions, advocates that University administrators solicit student input when making decisions that reduce the quantity and quality of academic opportunities available to students as students are the ones primarily impacted by such cuts,” Liu said.

The Resolution cites the cutting of the Vietnamese language program, and the process surrounding said decision, as an example of the lack of transparency and student involvement in some of the recent budget decisions and states that “students, like faculty members, ‘have been forced to play a mostly reactionary role in the budget-cutting process.’”

“Tough decisions will continue to be made across campus and it is now more important than ever that students have a voice in the decision-making process,” Chelsea Adler, President of the Senate of College Councils, said.

Furthermore, the Resolution states that “students, as the ones primarily affected by reductions in academic opportunities, ought to have the right to voice their opinions in what reductions are being made and to understand which reductions are being made and for what reasons.”

Additionally, S.R. 1001 references the Boyer Commission on Educating Undergraduates in the Research University which states that students should not be reduced to “second-class citizens who are allowed to pay taxes but are barred from voting, the guests at the banquet who pay their share of the tab but are given leftovers.”

The Resolution – which once passed will be sent to Executive Vice President and Provost Steven Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost Gretchen Ritter and all of the University’s college deans – further states that budget cuts will continue to “directly impact students’ abilities to achieve their educational goals in a timely fashion.”

“S.R. 1001 aims to insure that students are not blindsided by programmatic cuts,” Adler said. “Students should feel empowered, rather than disenfranchised, and know that their voice matters when determining the fate of academic programs at this University.”

Contact:

Michael Morton
Senate Communications Director
(512) 639-3631
michael.morton@austin.utexas.edu

###