

1 November 11, 2010

2 **S.R. 1007**

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4 **Title: In Support of Faculty Emergency and Safety Preparedness**

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6 **WHEREAS,** The recent on-campus shooting has alerted the University community of the  
7 importance of having and promoting a uniform emergency and safety  
8 preparedness program; and,

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10 **WHEREAS,** The University of Texas Police Department, the Austin Police Department, and  
11 the Travis County Sherriff’s Office performed commendably on that day ensuring  
12 the safety of all those on campus; and,

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14 **WHEREAS,** There were, however, major disparities in the responses of faculty including a  
15 disregard of lockdown procedures and further instructions provided through  
16 emergency notifications via text messaging and e-mail; and,

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18 **WHEREAS,** This lack of uniform responses put students, faculty, and staff in danger and  
19 disrupted students’ academic performance by disturbing the learning environment;  
20 and,

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22 **WHEREAS,** These disparities could be remedied by the promotion of a uniform faculty  
23 emergency response program that involves preparation by leaders of departments  
24 at the University; and,

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26 **WHEREAS,** The University of Texas Police Department offers training resources regarding  
27 natural disasters, medical emergencies, and physical threats<sup>1</sup>; and,

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29 **WHEREAS,** These resources show basic emergency response procedures but lack informative  
30 and detailed steps that faculty should take in emergency situations; and,

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32 **WHEREAS,** The University of Wisconsin recognizes that “faculty and staff can play a major  
33 role in helping to respond to or avert these situations by being aware and  
34 informed”<sup>2</sup>; and,

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36 **WHEREAS,** The University of Michigan has made it a priority “to assist faculty in carrying  
37 out...[their] obligation to prepare for possible emergencies for their own safety  
38 and for the safety of their students”<sup>3</sup>; and,

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<sup>1</sup>The University of Texas Police Department - <http://www.utexas.edu/police/videos/>

<sup>2</sup> University of Wisconsin – University of Wisconsin – Madison Campus Safety –  
<http://www.safeu.wisc.edu/emergency/training.html>

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**WHEREAS,** The University of Texas at Austin should also make it a priority to provide resources for faculty similar to its peer institutions; and,

**WHEREAS,** The University would benefit from the creation of detailed emergency procedures designed specifically for faculty; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** The Senate of College Councils calls for the creation of resources that specifically detail procedures to be followed by faculty in emergency situations; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That upon the creation of the aforementioned resources, the Senate of College Councils strongly encourages that department chairs ensure that the faculty in their respective departments are familiar with the content of these resources so that all faculty at the University of Texas at Austin know how to appropriately respond to emergency situations; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this resolution be sent to Executive Vice President and Provost Steven Leslie, the Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Juan Gonzalez and all department chairs

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<sup>3</sup> University of Michigan – The University of Michigan Faculty Handbook – “18.F.8 Classroom Safety for Instructors” – <http://www.provost.umich.edu/faculty/handbook/18/18.F.html>