

1 November 11, 2010

2 **S.R. 1009**

3
4 **Title: In Support of Coordinating a Study Abroad Course Equivalency Database**
5 **with the Interactive Degree Audit**
6

7 **WHEREAS,** There are resources available to students to determine foreign course equivalences
8 such as study abroad advisors, an online searchable database on the Study Abroad
9 website; and,

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11 **WHEREAS,** The information in these resources, however, is so fragmented across various
12 locations that students do not receive a clear picture of how courses taken abroad
13 relate to their individual degree plan; and

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15 **WHEREAS,** Due to the diverse nature of the University’s many degree plans, sometimes study
16 abroad advisors lack information about how credits will affect specific degree
17 plans; and,

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19 **WHEREAS,** A substantial amount of students who go abroad do not end up receiving the
20 course credit that they anticipated receiving¹; and,

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22 **WHEREAS,** There is currently a transfer equivalency option in the IDA Planner that allows
23 students to plan out credits solely from American colleges and universities in
24 regards to their own degree plan; and,

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26 **WHEREAS,** The Study Abroad Office reports that there is a foreign course equivalency system
27 being finalized but that this system does not connect foreign courses with the
28 degree audit; and,

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30 **WHEREAS,** The majority of comparison schools, including the University of Michigan and
31 Indiana University, have foreign course equivalency systems but have not yet
32 coordinated them into a personalized interactive degree audit system; and,

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34 **WHEREAS,** The Commission of 125 argues that “in a world increasingly dependent upon
35 innovative information systems, it will be impossible to reach these goals [as
36 outlined by the Commission] unless The University maintains its leadership in
37 information technology”²; and,

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¹ Academic Enrichment Study Abroad Focus Group – 9/27/10

² Commission of 125 Final Report – pg. 24

39 **WHEREAS,** The Commission of 125 continues this theme of implementing progressive
40 technology by arguing that because the University is “a recognized leader in
41 digital libraries and administrative systems,” it “is ideally positioned to develop
42 the technology systems required of a great 21st century university”³; and,
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44 **WHEREAS,** the University of Texas has the opportunity to be a pioneer in the integration of
45 data information systems, enabling students who plan to study abroad to more
46 easily incorporate study abroad as part of their education while a student at the
47 University of Texas; and,
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49 **WHEREAS,** The University of Texas “ranks third in number of students who study abroad”⁴
50 and therefore has an obligation not only to the national spectrum of universities as
51 an innovator of information technology but also to its students in providing a
52 centralized point of reference for ensuring that study abroad advances not
53 impedes the fulfillment of degree requirement; therefore, be it,
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55 **RESOLVED,** That the Senate of College Councils supports the addition of a tab to the IDA
56 Planner that allows for a student to run foreign course equivalency searches
57 pertaining to their individual degree plan(s); be it further,
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59 **RESOLVED,** That there be equal weight given to foreign courses as transfer courses in the IDA
60 Planner; be it further,
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62 **RESOLVED,** that the Office of the Registrar work with the Academic Enrichment Committee
63 and the Study Abroad Office to create the appropriate interface for an additional
64 foreign course tab in the IDA Planner by Fall 2011; be it further,
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66 **RESOLVED,** That this resolution be sent to Executive Vice President and Provost Steven Leslie,
67 Associate Vice President and Registrar Shelby Stanfield, Senior Administrative
68 Associate for the Interactive Degree Audit Debbie Miller, Director for Study
69 Abroad Heather Hamir, and Assistant Director for Study Abroad Heather
70 Thompson.
71

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³ Commission of 125 Final Report – pg. 29

⁴ Cockrell School of Engineering – News Release: The University of Texas among leaders in study abroad, international students (<https://www.engr.utexas.edu/news/releases/3361-the-university-of-texas-at-austin-among-leaders-in-study-abroad-international-students>)

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93 **Sponsors:** David Liu (Policy Director, Senate of College Councils)