Student Regent Application Process Integrity Resolution

Special Designation: Summer Senate Resolution

"A resolution expressing disapproval in the manner in which the current Texas A&M University System Student Regent was selected."

Whereas(1): The Texas Education Code: Texas Statutes – Section 51.355: Nonvoting Student Regent; University System Board of Regents defines "student government" as "the representative student organization directly elected by the student body of a general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit;" and,

Whereas(2): The Texas Education Code: Texas Statutes – Section 51.355: Nonvoting Student Regent; University System Board of Regents subsection (c) further outlines the process by which the student government solicits applications and makes recommendations to the system chancellor, and by which the chancellor submits his recommendations to the governor; and,
Whereas(3): The Texas Education Code: Texas Statutes – Section 51.355: Nonvoting Student Regent; University System Board of Regents subsection (c) further states “on June 1, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the governor shall appoint one of the applicants to serve as the student regent for the system for a one-year term expiring on the next May 31”; and,

Whereas(4): While the governor is not required to appoint an applicant recommended by the chancellor, the author of the legislation that created the student regent position, State Senator Jeff Wentworth, has stated that the governor is required to appoint a student who submitted an application to their respective student government, as outlined in the first step in the appointment process and in accordance with the legislative intent of the statute; and,

Whereas(5): On September 13, 2010 then-Student Body President Jacob Robinson sent out a campus-wide e-mail soliciting applications for the position of student regent; the e-mail states:

“The Student Government Association is also accepting applications for the position of Student Regent on The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, as well as applications for the student representative position on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Both of these positions provide student input on the statewide level. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact my Chief of Staff, Ryan O'Dwyer, at ExecCOS@dsa.tamu.edu”

The e-mail containing the aforementioned statement was sent to all registered students at Texas A&M University; and,

Whereas(6): In April 2011, Governor Rick Perry appointed Fernando Trevino Jr. to the position of student regent for the Texas A&M System Board of Regents; and,

Whereas(7): Texas A&M System spokesman Jason Cook has confirmed that “Fernando Trevino Jr. applied directly to Perry’s office.”
Senate Resolution  S.R. 64-03 – Page 3  Further Certified By:  

Tanner Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Therefore
Let it be
Resolved(1): That the Texas A&M University Student Senate does not believe that the newly appointed student regent was appointed in accordance with Texas state law as outlined in the Texas Education Code; and,

Let it be
Further
Resolved(2): By violating the Texas Education Code Statutes outlining the selection process for a student regent, the Office of the Governor has tarnished the application and selections process; and,

Let it be
Further
Resolved(3): The Texas A&M University Student Senate strongly disapproves of the manner in which the Office of the Governor appointed the current student regent to the position of student regent for the Texas A&M System; and,

Let it be
Further
Resolved(4): Given the confusion experienced by several Student Regent applicants, the Student Senate suggests that the following measures be taken to ensure an airtight application process that is accessible to all students:

1. The Student Regent application is consolidated into one single application.

2. All applicants shall continue to apply directly through the A&M System Member university’s student government.

3. The TAMUS Office of Academic Affairs shall be the sole point of contact for applicants at each A&M System Member university with questions regarding the application process.

4. The Office of Academic Affairs shall send instruction regarding the Student Regent application process by October 1, providing students with accurate information in a timely manner.
5. Each A&M System Member university’s student government is encouraged to send a campus wide e-mail by November 1, or sooner, to aide in disseminating information to applicants. The email should outline the application procedure, deadlines and contact information for the TAMUS Office of Academic Affairs; and,

Let it be
Further Resolved(5): By ignoring the process outlined in the Texas Education Code statutes, the Office of the Governor has cast a shroud of doubt over the Student Government Association’s ability to fairly and transparently represent all students through the application process; and,

Let it be
Further Resolved(6): That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the Governor of Texas, the Texas Senate Committee on Higher Education Chairwoman Senator Judith Zaffirini, the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education Chairman Representative Dan Branch, the Texas A&M System Board of Regents, Texas A&M President Dr. R Bowen Loftin, Texas A&M Vice President for Student Affairs Lt. Gen. Weber and the Student Body Presidents for all Texas A&M System Universities.