The Student Senate
Texas A&M University

S.S.R. 63-01

The Student Senate
63rd Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Senator Justin Pulliam, Agriculture
Director Michael Ariza, Southside

Action Taken

Certified By:

Hilary E. Albrecht
Speaker of the Senate

Education First Resolution

“A summer resolution requesting that administrators make undergraduate education the primary purpose of Texas A&M and opposing plans to lay off those who teach undergraduate classes.”

Whereas(1): Founded under the Morrill Land-Grant College Act, Texas A&M’s purpose was to be a college “where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.”

Whereas(2): 93 currently filled faculty positions are being cut, and another 100 vacant or soon to be vacant faculty positions are not being filled. These cuts specifically target non-tenured instructors who primarily teach classes, including lecturers, teaching assistants and adjunct and visiting faculty.

Whereas(3): Tuition has increased by $72.15 per semester (15 SCH) starting Fall 2010.

Whereas(4): Since 2005, enrollment has increased an average of 723 undergraduate students/year. Planned enrollment is to rise by at least 500 this year and next. This increases demand for class sections, but also increases the amount of tuition money received by the University.

Whereas(5): The Summer Student Senate recognizes that most research and research paper based college rankings do not improve undergraduate education.
Summer Senate Resolution  S.S.R. 63-01  Further Certified By:  

Hilary E. Albrecht  
Speaker of the Senate

Whereas(6):  The TAMU Strategic Plan 2010-2015 Focused Mission Statement does not include education. In reads: “Texas A&M University contributes to society by being both a selective, top-tier research university and a renowned service-oriented university serving the public good of the State and Nation.”

Whereas(7):  Large class sizes, lack of scheduling options, and full classes are already a problem, and many students already have difficulty getting into required classes.

Whereas(8):  Many student fees that are currently paid do not benefit the quality of education received.

Whereas(9):  $21 million is being reallocated to “strategic initiatives,” and even if the state funding is not reduced by $39 million, the faculty and staff positions will still be cut, with the extra money used for “strategic initiatives.”

Therefore  
Let it be  
Resolved(1):  The Texas A&M Summer Senate, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M, request that education – especially undergraduate education – be the primary purpose of Texas A&M University; and,

Let it be  
Further  
Resolved(2):  The Texas A&M Summer Senate, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M, believes that academics should come before any other undergraduate service in terms of funding, staff, and resources; and,

Let it be  
Further  
Resolved(3):  The Texas A&M Summer Senate, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M, opposes the current plans to lay off the professors, instructors, lecturers, or teaching assistants that teach in the classroom on a consistent basis; and,

Therefore  
Let it be  
Resolved(4):  The Texas A&M Summer Senate, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M, requests that more faculty be made available to teach undergraduate classes, including requiring faculty to teach three classes per term (3 X 3); and,
Summer Senate Resolution  S.S.R. 63-01  Further Certified By:  

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Speaker of the Senate

Therefore  
Let it be  
Resolved(5):  The Texas A&M Summer Senate, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M, opposes any measure that would increase class sizes, decrease the number of class sections, or switch traditionally in-class taught courses to online courses; and,

Therefore  
Let it be  
Resolved(6):  The Texas A&M Summer Senate, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M, requests that the faculty reward structure be reconsidered to recognize teaching as being as important as research; and,

Therefore  
Let it be  
Resolved(7):  The Texas A&M Summer Senate, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M, opposes laying off instructors and reallocating resources towards "strategic initiatives," unless those "strategic initiatives" provide more resources to departments and courses that are in high demand by students; and,

Therefore  
Let it be  
Resolved(8):  The Texas A&M Summer Senate, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M, requests that the University Administration makes a firm commitment to undergraduate education and revise the TAMU Strategic Plan 2010-2015, the Academic Master Plan, and any other current or future planning policy to reflect a commitment to undergraduate education.