



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 65-53(R66)

The Student Senate
66th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Academic Affairs Chair Tyler Mandry, Engineering
Keith Pattison
Senator Rachel Smith, Agriculture and Life Sciences
Senator Rebecca McCreary, Geosciences

Sponsored By: Academic Affairs Chair Tyler Mandry, Engineering
Keith Pattison, Engineering

Action Taken PASSED

Certified By:

 '12

Christopher W. Russo
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved:



T. Reid Joseph
Student Body President

The Go Google Bill

"A bill expressing the need for more user-friendly, modern IT services that save the University money."

Whereas(1): Texas A&M University is a public institution, and as such, has an obligation to spend taxpayers' and students' money as efficiently and effectively as possible; and,

Whereas(2): The Student Government Association is the official voice of the Texas A&M student body; and,

Whereas(3): The university currently uses Zimbra for student e-mail; and,

Whereas(4): The Zimbra interface is neither familiar nor enjoyable to use for most students; and,

Whereas(5): Texas A&M University currently spends money in hosting and maintaining this e-mail system; and,



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Further Certified By:

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Whereas(6): Students currently have no solution to managing documents and other files they use for courses and easily synchronizing them between campus and their personal computers, or for sharing calendars; and,

Whereas(7): Google offers an online service, Google Apps for Education, that offers all of the above services and more with 99.9% guaranteed uptime and is completely free for the university[1]; and,

Whereas(8): Seventy-two (72) percent of this year's top 100 U.S. Universities (as determined by the 2013 *U.S. News and World Report* ranking) have switched to using Google Apps for Education, including seven of the country's eight ivy league universities[2]; and,

Whereas(9): The University of Texas switched last year to Google Apps for Education after its students expressed dissatisfaction with their e-mail service, and was able to offer 42 times the space it had previously provided to its students, along with providing permanent e-mail accounts to all of its alumni[3]; and,

Whereas(10): Vanderbilt University switched to Google Apps for Education in 2010, and with 11,800 students, cited a cost savings of more than \$750,000 on only storage, not including server expenses that were saved[4]; and,

Whereas(11): The University of Notre Dame, which consists of 12,000 students, saved \$1.5 million, increased student satisfaction by 36%, and reduced help desk questions by 20% by switching to Google Apps for Education[5]; and,

Whereas(12): University- or system-wide adoption of Google Apps for faculty, students, and staff would streamline collaboration within and among all parties; and,

Whereas(13): Adopting Google Apps for Education for e-mail and other services would save the university money while providing more, easier-to-use services to students who pay to come to the university; and,

Whereas(14): The use of Google Apps for Education is the most efficient and effective use of taxpayer and student money.



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Further Certified By: Chris Russo '12
Christopher W. Russo
Speaker of the Senate

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(1): That the Texas A&M University student body supports the speedy adoption of Google Apps for Education university-wide; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted(2): That a copy of this bill shall be sent to

- Dr. Pierce Cantrell, Vice President and Associate Provost for Information Technology
- Mr. Joseph P. Pettibon, II, Associate Vice President for Academic Services
- Dr. Pamela R. Matthews, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Watson, Provost
- Ms. B.J. Crain, Chief Financial Officer
- Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, President
- Mr. John Sharp, Chancellor, Texas A&M University System

[1] *Google Apps for Education*. Google, 2013. Web. 06 Mar. 2013.

[2] "Celebrating Teachers Who Make a Difference with Google." *Google Official Blog*. Google, 01 Oct. 2012. Web. 06 Mar. 2013.

[3] Rao, Rich. "The Horns Are Hooked: UT Austin Has Gone Google." *Official Google Enterprise Blog*. Google, 4 Nov. 2011. Web. 27 Feb. 2013.

[4] "Google Apps & Search: Vanderbilt Case Study." *Google Apps for Education*. Google, 2010. Web. 27 Feb. 2013.

[5] "Google Apps: Notre Dame Case Study." *Google Apps for Education*. Google, 2009. Web. 27 Feb. 2013.