Texas A&M University
The Student Senate
73rd Session

Requestable Transcript Letter Resolution

“A resolution advocating for students to be issued upon request an official letter notifying readers of transcripts that Texas A&M did not offer a pass/fail grading option in the Fall of 2020.”

Action Taken: PASSED

Certified By: Zachary McCue
Speaker of the Senate

Date Passed: 2-03-21

Introduced By: Michael McKnight, Off-Campus Caucus

Sponsored By: Chandler Trosclair, Speaker Pro Tempore

Whereas(1): Many American universities, such as the University of Texas at Austin\(^1\) and Harvard University\(^2\), offered a pass/fail grading option to their students in the Fall of 2020; and,

Whereas(2): Students at such universities will therefore have inflated GPAs, since pass/fail eliminates lower grades that would otherwise lower their GPA; and,

Whereas(3): The Texas A&M Faculty Senate elected to not support a pass/fail option for students at Texas A&M\(^3\), with the contemporary administration concurring with that decision; and,

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Whereas(4): Many Texas A&M students are planning to apply to various post-undergrad institutions with competitive admissions processes, where a competitive GPA is of the utmost importance; and,

Whereas(5): An individual Texas A&M student with identical skills and qualifications to an individual student at different institution might appear to have a worse GPA; and,

Whereas(6): Since pass/fail grading policies were widespread at American universities in the Fall of 2020, admissions officers not familiar with Texas A&M may simply assume that this university did in fact implement pass/fail, and judge a student’s transcript without knowledge of the true policy in mind; and,

Whereas (7): The present situation therefore potentially disadvantages Texas A&M students who are seeking admission to post-undergrad institutions in competition with students from other universities who were offered a pass/fail grading option; and,

Therefore
Let it be
Resolved(1): That while The Student Senate acknowledges the decision of The Faculty Senate and the administration regarding the implementation of a pass/fail grading option, we ask that Texas A&M University provide some form of official notification to those reading an official student transcript that unlike many universities, Texas A&M did not offer a pass/fail grading option in the Fall of 2020; and,

Let it be
Further
Resolved(2): We kindly request that this might take the form of an official letter that would be available on Howdy upon request to any student that was enrolled at Texas A&M in the Fall of 2020; and,

Let it be
Further
Resolved(3): Regardless of form, we ask that the University would provide some official notification to recipients of transcripts that Texas A&M did not offer a pass/fail grading option; and,
Let it be

Further

Resolved(4): A copy of this resolution be sent to:
- Interim President John L. Junkins
- Dr. Daniel J. Pugh Sr., Vice President of Student Affairs
- Dr. Mark H. Weichold, Interim Provost & Executive Vice President
- Dr. John Stallone, Faculty Senate Speaker
- Dr. Dale Rice, Faculty Senate Speaker-Elect
- Venesa A. Heidick, Registrar
- The Battalion

Further Sponsored By:
- Cole Allen, Mays Business Caucus
- Blake Martin, Liberal Arts Caucus
- Iman Ahmed, Diversity & Inclusion Chair, Off Campus Caucus
- Tyler Smith, COALS Caucus
- Alexia Hernandez, Liberal Arts Caucus
- David Garcia, Off-Campus Caucus
- Clarissa Rodriguez, Constituency Affairs, Engineering Caucus
- Sofia Chunga Pizarro, Off Campus Caucus
- Mikayla Nasis, On-Campus Caucus
- Dylan Bohn, Mays Business Caucus
- Yovanka Carolyn Gonzalez, Mays Business Caucus
- Magnolia Lind, College of Science Caucus
- Meghan Hein, Rules & Regulations Chair, COALS Caucus
- Tiffany Ufodiama, Tiffany Ufodiama Freshman Caucus
- John Carter Teague, Finance Chair, COALS Caucus
- Lauren Devenzio, Off Campus Caucus
- Joshua Eric Feldman, Legislative Relations Chair
- Victor J Ferro, Engineering Caucus