

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

AUTHORS: Michael Lee, *Policy Drafting Chari*, UT Senate of College Councils
Ian McEntee, *Academic Affairs Policy Co-Director*, Student Government
Bryten Otting, *Communication Representative*, Student Government
Lillian Bonin, *Liberal Arts Representative*, Student Government

SPONSORS: Delaney Harness, Legislative Affairs Director, Graduate Student Assembly

Resolution: J.R. 18 (F) 2 - A Resolution in Support of the Creation of Permanent Deans' Student Advisory Committees

Executive Summary: Over the past few years, there have been various campus climate issues and events, encompassing nearly every college across the University, which students feel have not always been met with strong and tactful responses by the faculty. To address these problems, some of the colleges across campus have created formal and informal avenues through which students can discuss their grievances and provide feedback to the deans. This bill suggests creating official committees composed of student leaders to report to each and every college's Dean to voice the students' concerns, beliefs, and suggestions. The streamlined implementation and consistent communication that these committees will provide can be mutually beneficial to both students and the deans.

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WHEREAS (1): The Senate of College Councils is an umbrella organization composed of students from several undergraduate and graduate colleges whose duty is to represent their student constituents; and,

WHEREAS (2): The Student Government Assembly is composed of representatives elected directly by the student body in order to represent the students of each undergraduate college; and,

WHEREAS (3): The Graduate Student Assembly serves to represent the needs of graduate and professional students of the university; and,

WHEREAS (4): Many of these representatives meet frequently with staff, faculty, and administrators; and,

WHEREAS (5): These meetings often times drive policy change, innovation, and increased recognition of student affairs on campus; and,

WHEREAS (6): Appointees from the Senate and Student Government currently have the responsibility to serve on the President Student Advisory Committee which "advises the President of the University of Texas at Austin on matters of importance and concern to students and serves as the principal body of communication between students and the president;" and,

WHEREAS (7): Currently a few colleges, such as Liberal Arts, already have similar student advisory committees with their Dean; and,

WHEREAS (8): These groups guarantee student interaction and that the concerns of the students are being voiced directly to those in positions of high authority; and,

WHEREAS (9): Over the past few years, several issues have arisen within many colleges that students believe were not met by the faculty with a strong response; and,

WHEREAS (10): Every decision the faculty makes ultimately affects students; and,

WHEREAS (11): Students deserve to have representation that can effectively communicate their concerns to those who will make decisions that affect them; and,

WHEREAS (12): Deans' Student Advisory Committees would allow the students' college representatives to have direct, open dialogue with the Deans of their colleges; and,

WHEREAS (13): For graduate schools, it would be most beneficial for the corresponding Dean's Student Advisory Committee to be composed solely of graduate students; and,

WHEREAS (14): More voices on campus-wide/college specific issues would help to improve the University as a whole; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED (1): That Dean Student Advisory Committees will be installed within every college at the University of Texas at Austin with regularly scheduled meetings; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (2): The membership of said committees will remain at the discretion of each college, but composed of an equal number of representatives from applicable LSOs of the said college: Student Government, Senate of College Councils, and/or the Graduate Student Assembly; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (3): That the Chair and Agenda Master for each committee will be the Council President of that college for the academic year; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (4): At the beginning of each academic year, we recommend the Dean of the college submit the frequency and times of the meetings and the membership of each committee to the Provost to ensure accountability; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (5): That a copy of this resolution be sent to The Daily Texan, President Gregory Fenves, *President of the University of Texas at Austin*, Dr. Maurie McInnis, *Executive Vice President and Provost*, Sharon Wood, *Cockrell School of Engineering Dean*, Sherry Field, *College of Education Interim Dean*, Doug Dempster, *College of Fine Arts Dean*, Randy L. Diehl, *College of Liberal Arts Dean*, Paul Goldbart, *College of Natural Sciences Dean*, M. Lynn Crismon, *College of Pharmacy Dean*, S. Claiborne Johnston, *Dell Medical School Dean*, Mark J.T. Smith, *Graduate School Dean*, Sharon Mosher, *Jackson School of Geosciences Dean*, Angela Evans, *Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs Dean*, Jay C. Hartzell, *McCombs School of Business Dean*, Jay M. Bernhardt, *Moody College of Communication Dean*, Michelle Addington, *School of Architecture Dean*, Eric Meyer, *School of Information Dean*, Ward Farnsworth, *School of Law Dean*, Alexa Stuijbergen, *School of Nursing*

*Dean, Luis H. Zayas, Steve Hicks School of Social Work Dean, and Brent L. Iverson,
School of Undergraduate Studies Dean.*