A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SMU STUDENT BODY CONSTITUTION
AND THE SMU STUDENT SENATE BY-LAWS TO ADD A QUEER STUDENT SEAT

WHEREAS Article II Section 3(7)(a) of the SMU Student Body Constitution currently states: “a) For the purpose of this document, the International Senator shall be considered an Ethnic Minority Senator.”, and Article II Section 3(7)(b) of the SMU Student Body Constitution currently states: “b) The Ethnic Minority Senators must represent an ethnic group as recognized by the Office of the Registrar. There will only be one Special Interest Seat per ethnic group. Candidates must be a member of their representative constituency as verified by the Office of the Registrar. Each Ethnic Minority Senator shall have a vote.”, and

RECOGNIZING the desire in recent academic years and Student Senates for the Queer student population to receive a Special Interest Seat, and

RECOGNIZING that a study conducted between June 2012- December 2014 by Gallup revealed that Dallas has an identifying Queer population of 3.8%, and

HOLDING that the Student Senate would benefit from the voice, presence, and perspective of a Queer Senator.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Article II Section 3(7)(a) of the SMU Student Body Constitution be amended to state: “a) For the purpose of this document, the International and Queer Senator shall be considered Minority Senators.”, and Article II Section 3(7)(b) of the SMU Student Senate Body Constitution be amended to state: “b) The Minority Senators must represent their respective demographic groups as recognized by the demographic data compiled by the Office of the Registrar. There will be only one Special Interest Senator Seat per minority group. Candidates and voters must be a member of their representative constituency as verified by the Office of the Registrar. Each Minority Senator shall have a vote.”, and
BE IT FURTHER that the Registrar is thus, in support of the Student Senate, respectfully charged with allowing SMU students to Voluntarily identify themselves as Queer for the purposes of tracking the university’s Queer population, and for tracking the eligibility of Queer Students to run and vote for their respective Minority’s Senator, and

BE IT FURTHER that identifying as a member of the Queer community means identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual, or any other non-heterosexual and/or non-cisgender identity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the above amendments to the SMU Student Body Constitution are passed and enacted: 1). The position of Queer Special Interest Senator shall be held to have been created in the matter prescribed in Article II Section 3(7)(1) of the SMU Student Body Constitution, 2). The manner of declaring candidacy for and voting for the Queer Special Interest Senator shall be administered by the Membership Chair and Student Senate Advisor in consultation with the Executive Committee, 3). That until such time that the Office of the Registrar is able to track the Queer population of the university the elimination clause in Article II Section 3(7)(2) of the SMU Student Body Constitution shall only go into effect with regards to the position of the Queer Special Interest Senator if the total number of voters casting votes in the election for the Queer Special Interest Senator exceeds 15 percent of the total number of voters casting votes in the elections for Student Body Officers for at least two consecutive years, and 4). That Article II Section 2(1) of the SMU Student Senate By-Laws be amended by inserting a semicolon after the word Senator in Article II Section 2(1)(d) and by the insertion of the following quotation mark bound text immediately before Article II Section 2(1)(d) of said By-Laws, “(subsequent alphabet letter). Queer Senator”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if this bill as well as senate bills 1S-03-07 and 103-09 pass in the student referendum, the Student Body Constitution will reflect the changes of all three as follows: Article II Section 3(7)(a) be amended to say “a) For the purpose of this document, the International, MILVET, Queer, and Athletic Senators shall be considered Minority Senators.” And if any other combination of bills S-103-07,
S-103-08, and S-103-09 pass or fail the referendum, the changes will be accurately portrayed in the above fashion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Will Jones
Student Body Secretary