A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE STUDENT SENATE BY-LAWS FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTIONALIZED AD HOC COMMITTEE ON
CAMPUS INCLUSION AND TO ESTABLISH CHARTER FREEZES

WHEREAS the campus climate of Southern Methodist University
continues to be challenged by issues of inclusion, diversity,
and racial insensitivity, and

RECOGNIZING the need for tangible and timely solutions to promote a
cultural change to combat the negative image and
atmosphere perceived and experienced on our campus as a
result of these pressing issues and concerns, and

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of the Student Senate in fostering an environment
that allows all SMU Mustangs, and any stakeholders to the
University, to be supported and valued both on and off
campus, and

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the freedom of speech and the robust exchange of
differing ideas enshrined in the First Amendment to the
United States Constitution also forms the foundation of
collegiate education in American academic tradition, and is
vital to the cultivation of mature university graduates
capable of critical evaluation of ideas and worldviews, and

CERTIFYING that this resolution shall under no circumstances be
employed as an instrument of public opinion to de-
legitimize organizations who engage in free speech to
espouse opinions and viewpoints that members of the
campus community may find unpopular or offensive

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the following subsection be added to Article VIII,
Section 2 of the Student Senate By-Laws:

2. The President of the Student Body may convene the
Committee on Campus Inclusion to respond to urgent
concerns posed by incidents in which members of any
SMU minority community are targeted. Responses may
include, but are not limited to, issuing statements to the student body, hosting open forums or tabling events, and promoting events intended to create a more inclusive campus environment. However, this committee will have no authority to investigate any incident or have any disciplinary authority over any organization or member of the SMU community. This committee will consist of all members of the Student Senate Executive Committee, the Special Interest Senators who represent the minority communities targeted, the Chair of the Diversity Committee, the Student Senate Advisor (who shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member), and three other Student Senators who are to be elected to the committee, in the same process as outlined in the previous subsection, in the next meeting of the Student Senate following the first meeting of the committee. Due to the necessity for urgent response to events that happen on or directly affect the SMU campus, the President of the Student Body may convene this committee before the next meeting of the Student Senate that occurs after the incident(s) in question. However, the President of the Student Body must provide a description of the incident(s) in question to the Student Senate and report any actions the committee has taken in every succeeding meeting of the Student Senate in which the committee continues to convene. If the president is unable to give the report for any appropriate Student Senate meeting, another member of the committee shall give the report on committee updates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Article V, Section 4, Subsection 4, Subsubsection f, part iii of the Student Senate By-Laws be amended to read:

iii. Organizations may not discriminate based on sex, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, disability, age, veteran status, genetic information, or national origin. Due to the University's commitment to freedom of speech and expression, discrimination is more than insensitivity or conduct that offends or creates an uncomfortable situation for certain members of the community. This applies to all groups with the exception of those organizations specifically exempted in Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. Chartered or temporarily chartered organizations who violate this policy, as confirmed by a certificate of investigation, a report of
the facts of the violation, or other equivalent documentation
from the SMU Office of Institutional Access and Equity
(IAE) or Office of Student Conduct and Community
Standards that certifies that their investigation concludes
that a violation of SMU anti-discrimination policy or Title
IX protection has indeed occurred shall come under charter
review by the Organizations Committee in the next meeting
of the committee following the receipt of this
documentation. Upon certification from one or more of the
above offices of the occurrence of a violation, the
Organizations Committee shall make a recommendation to
the Student Senate to revoke or freeze an organization’s
charter, which must be confirmed by a 2/3 majority vote of
the Senate to be executed. A charter freeze is defined as a
state of temporary suspension of an organization’s charter
or temporary charter status lasting no longer than one
calendar year in which all charter or temporary charter
privileges of an organization are suspended and the
organization may not receive any funding from the Finance
Committee. Organizations may establish additional
membership and academic eligibility requirements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blake Rainey
Student Body President

Cecily Cox
Diversity Committee Chair

Olivia Buerkle
Organizations Committee Chair