A RESOLUTION REVAMPING THE DFW SENATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND CREATING AN ACCOUNT FOR THE INITIAL FUNDING OF THE STUDENT CENTER RENOVATIONS

WHEREAS the Student Senate constantly strives to ensure that every source of designated funding from the student fee is used efficiently and effectively in impacting and improving the campus experience of admitted and potential students, and

RECOGNIZING the importance of strengthening the bonds between the University and its surrounding communities and the direct positive impact that will have on the members of the SMU community, and

NOTING that the 97th Student Senate established the DFW Senate Scholarship program by increasing the student fee by eleven dollars (prorated to account for the increase of the cost of tuition each year) to aid students who may normally not have the financial means to attend SMU and who exhibit “qualities of leadership, service and character valued by the SMU community,” and

OBSERVING that the DFW Senate Scholarship program was intended to distribute a full-tuition scholarship to one new SMU student each academic year, and

FURTHER OBSERVING that this scholarship has not been distributed by the Student Senate in the last several years due to difficulty in establishing an efficient and effective process of engaging the greater Dallas-Fort Worth community and thoroughly vetting prospective candidates, and

FURTHER OBSERVING that there has been difficulty in working with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid in distributing this scholarship due to the requirement that the selected candidate must first apply and be accepted for admission to SMU before being considered for the scholarship, which can make it less attractive for potential candidates to apply, and
WHEREAS the Hughes-Trigg Student Center was constructed in 1987 with the purpose of serving as a central location for student life, and

RECOGNIZING that in the thirty years since its opening, while the Student Center has had some substantial yet piecemeal updates to certain areas, the Student Center has not undergone significant renovation, resulting in a building which is both antiquated in its physical construction, layout, infrastructure, and its ability to meet the needs of student activities, and

NOTING that the 100th Student Senate passed a resolution urging for “the SMU administration to commence renovation of the Hughes-Trigg Student Center by 2017,” and

FURTHER NOTING that the 101st Student Senate passed a resolution calling for the increase of the undergraduate student fee by $75 (and for the increase of the graduate student fee by $50) for thirty years to pay for the complete renovation or replacement of the Hughes-Trigg Student Center, and

ACKNOWLEDGING that the University Board of Trustees has refused to approve the proposed increase due to the current growth of SMU’s student fee outpacing those of its cohort peer universities and many of its aspirational peer universities and that further large increases may have a negative impact on the ranking of our university as well as the number of applicants applying for admittance, and

NOTING the particular importance that the Student Center must inevitably play in fostering an environment where students from a variety of backgrounds and upbringings are attracted to and engage in shared activities and conversations to ultimately promote a more inclusive campus environment

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate charges the Scholarship Committee with the responsibility, which shall be added to the committee’s by-laws, of overseeing and implementing the selection process for the DFW Senate Scholarship each year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Scholarship Committee shall develop criteria and requirements, which shall be added to the committee’s by-
laws, to ensure candidates selected for the scholarship
demonstrate “the qualities of leadership, service and
classified “the qualities of leadership, service and character valued by the SMU community” as outlined in
the bill establishing the program for the DFW Senate Scholarship, and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED
that the candidates selected for the scholarship are chosen
from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, except in rare
circumstances deemed appropriate by the Scholarship
Committee and Student Senate, and demonstrate financial
need, as verified by the Office of Financial Aid, and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED
that the Scholarship Committee shall be charged with the
responsibilities, which shall be added to the committee’s
by-laws, of developing a comprehensive plan for engaging
the DFW community to encourage increased applications
of prospective candidates for the DFW Senate Scholarship
each year in addition to fostering a scholarship recipient
community that support students that have accepted the
scholarship, and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED
that each year, after extensive vetting of each prospective
candidate, the Scholarship Committee shall present their
choice and rationale for the selected candidate to receive
the DFW Senate Scholarship to the Student Senate, who
must confirm the selection through a majority vote before
the scholarship may be distributed to the selected
candidate, and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED
that the Student Senate calls upon the SMU administration
to immediately begin drafting plans, with input from the
Student Senate and other relevant parties, to commence by
the end of 2018 with the complete renovation of the
Hughes-Trigg Student Center, and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED
that the remaining amount accumulated and incoming
funds from this designated portion of the student fee that
are not being used to fund the DFW Senate Scholarship
distributed each year for the next three academic years
(through 2019-2020) be used to create an account to aid in
the funding of the Hughes-Trigg Student Center renovations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the total amount of these designated funds accumulated in the Student Center renovation account must be spent by December 31, 2020 by the university administration toward the Student Center renovations and if this does not occur, the total amount of these funds will be transferred in their entirety to the DFW Senate Scholarship program account, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all renovations made using the funds from the Student Center renovation account must be made in consultation with representatives from the Student Senate and other relevant parties.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blake Rainey
Student Body President

Cecily Cox
Diversity Committee Chair

Matthew Lucci
Lyle Senator
Student Center Governing Committee Chair

Arthur Troy
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Mason Potter
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