SMU STUDENT SENATE

A RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTING A NEW WITHDRAWAL DATE

WHEREAS according to the policy of the Office of the Provost, when a student must withdraw from a class prior to the official course drop date, as stated in the Academic Calendar, the student will receive a “W” on their transcript for that class upon withdrawing from that class, and

RECOGNIZING that if a student misses the deadline to drop a class with a “W” on their transcript, he/she will be unable to withdraw from the class and his/her current grade in that course will factor into his/her GPA, unless he/she chooses to retake the class during a later semester if he/she failed the class, and

ACKNOWLEDGING that the final day to withdraw from a course at SMU is on average four weeks (29 days) before the final day of classes, which is many days earlier than the majority of SMU’s recognized aspirational schools such as Tufts University and Carnegie Mellon University, which allow students to withdraw from a course on the last day of classes, and that this new policy would put SMU’s withdrawal deadline more in line with schools such as Boston College, Lehigh University, the University of Rochester, the University of Southern California, Syracuse University, and Texas Christian University, and

NOTING that students face extreme pressures from competitive employers, post-graduate institutions, family, and sometimes even themselves to improve their GPA rather than take a class out of the sheer desire to learn and grow, and

CONSIDERING that students have faced many instances when they do not have a clear understanding of their standing in a course prior to the withdrawal deadline and that many exams are scheduled in the week prior to the current withdrawal deadline, and

CONSIDERING that students withdraw from courses for a variety of reasons that are often unpredictable, such as family emergencies,
illness, and injury, and that the unpredictable should be taken into consideration when creating a withdrawal deadline,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the One Hundred and Fourth Student Senate of Southern Methodist University recommends that the Office of the Provost revise the current course drop date policy to move the final day that a student may withdraw from a course and receive a “W” grade to within 20 days prior to the last day of classes

Respectfully Submitted,

David Shirzad
Student Body President

Victor Hugo Sanchez
Hispanic-American Senator

Paxton Murphy
First Year Senator

Gabriella Gonzalez
Pre-Major Senator