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## Legislative Executive Summary

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S.R. 1607 A Resolution in Support of Centralizing Information About Financial Aid Services Into a Student Handbook

**Summary:** Currently, students can only access information about Financial Aid Services through the University's website or by consulting a counselor in the Financial Aid office. Other universities have consolidated information concerning financial aid into student handbooks that are readily available for student use. These handbooks function by providing a single source students reference when using the financial aid services. These handbooks will include information concerning federal loans for students, payment plans, a comprehensive checklist for items necessary in taking out a loan from the university, billing, study abroad costs, living expenses, and various awards and grants. The handbook will be accessible online in PDF format for students and staff of the Financial Aid office.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Is the Financial Aid Office interested in doing this?
  - a) Yes. They are currently revamping their communication efforts and consolidating teams throughout the Senior Vice President and Vice Provost office. They are looking for recommendations as to what they should include. After speaking with Director Sprague, we believe that the office will accept this legislation.



**Senate of College Councils**

**November 3, 2016**

**S.R. 1607**

A Resolution in Support of Centralizing Information About Financial Aid Services Into a Student Handbook

- WHEREAS, The Financial Aid Services office at the University of Texas at Austin is responsible for administering financial aid to, and for, students at the university; and,
- WHEREAS, There are currently 38,914 undergraduates enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin; and,
- WHEREAS, The Financial Aid Services at the University of Texas at Austin serves 60%<sup>1</sup> of the student population annually allotting approximately \$500 million; and,
- WHEREAS, It is crucial to make sure each student knows how to expertly use the financial services offered on the UT campus in order to continue attending this institution; and,
- WHEREAS, The only existing required information session concerning financial aid is Beconomics, which is offered during summer orientation and typically before students are on campus; and,
- WHEREAS, Otherwise the only information that can be accessed is available through an online platform that still needs to be updated for universal usage; and,
- WHEREAS, This information is crucial for the understanding of all financial aid related services and would be a benefit to students if it were more easily formatted; and,
- WHEREAS, Universities like Tufts University, Duke University, Boise State University, and others having mended this problem by compiling financial aid information in the form of an easily accessible student handbook; and,

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics from Financial Aid Report



SENATE OF COLLEGE COUNCILS  
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- WHEREAS, This information is available to UT students but not in the condensed format offered at comparable institutions; and,
- WHEREAS, Most of the information to be compiled is already in existence through the Department of Financial Aid Services; therefore, be it;
- RESOLVED, The Financial Aid office produces a comprehensive student handbook, containing compiled information previously discussed, including that on study abroad, scholarships, government terms and laws, grants, and loans; therefore, be it further,
- RESOLVED, That said handbook is made readily accessible to general population of UT students via the Financial Aid website, and in other offices that assist with student affairs; therefore, be it further,
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be sent to Mr. Gregory Fenves, *President of The University of Texas at Austin*, Dr. Maurie McInnis, *Vice President and Provost*, Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, *Vice President of Student Affairs*, and Diane Todd Sprague, *Director of Financial Aid*.
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