

# A.R. 20

## A Resolution In Support Of Creating a College Student Commission

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**Sponsors:** CHAIRMAN CHARLIE BONNER (*Government Affairs Committee*) AND REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN SOLDER (*College of Natural Sciences*)

**WHEREAS,** Student Government serves as the official voice of students at The University of Texas at Austin; and,

**WHEREAS,** The City of Austin temporarily created a committee with support from Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo to provide a snapshot of student opinions in the city<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** This committee provided a platform for students to engage in conversations with city officials about student safety<sup>2</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** In May, City Council approved a resolution tasking the City Manager to develop an ordinance that would create a permanent version of this committee<sup>3</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** On December 14th, City Council will consider an ordinance to create a College Student Commission under City Code Chapter 2-1<sup>4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** The College Student Commission would be an advisory board of 15 students with equal representation of each of the five higher education institutes in Austin: University of Texas, Austin Community College, Huston-Tillotson University, St. Edward's University, and Concordia University<sup>5</sup>; and,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2017/10/25/city-set-to-formalize-college-task-force-giving-students-new-pathway-to-voice-issues>

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2017/10/25/city-set-to-formalize-college-task-force-giving-students-new-pathway-to-voice-issues>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2017/20171214-reg.htm#043>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=289094>

**WHEREAS,** The College Student Commission would be an official platform for discussing student issues at the city level including “transportation, housing, affordability, immigration, and public safety”<sup>6</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** Students from the University of Texas have consistently expressed interest in local issues including police accountability<sup>7</sup>, housing<sup>8</sup>, and transportation<sup>9</sup>; and therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That local issues such as accessibility, housing, affordability, transportation, public safety, and immigration greatly impact the student experience and merit the creation of the College Student Commission; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That Student Government strongly supports the creation of the College Student Commission to give fair representation to the diverse voices of the University of Texas student body; and therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That Student Government strongly supports that the College Student Commission be focused on empowering student voices from all backgrounds and serve as an additional platform for student advocacy; and therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That Student Government strongly urges the Austin City Council to approve this ordinance; and therefore,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be sent to the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Dean of Students, City Council Member Jimmy Flannigan, City Council Member Ann Kitchen, City Council Member Ora Houston, City Council Member Greg Casar, City Council Member Sabino “Pio” Renteria, City Council Member Delia Garza, City Council Member Leslie Pool, City Council Member Alison Alter, City Council Member Ellen Troxclair, Mayor Pro Kathie Tovo, Mayor Steve Adler, and *The Daily Texan*.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=289094>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2017/11/02/students-must-demand-police-accountability>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2017/10/17/students-deserve-to-be-informed-when-renting-off-campus>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2017/10/24/students-need-enhanced-nighttime-transportation>