

**AR 29 In Support of a Centralized Comprehensive Online Room Reservation System**

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

**WHEREAS,** The President of The University of Texas at Austin has expressed interest in optimizing productivity and efficiency in university processes; and,

**WHEREAS,** The current room reservation system does not allow a streamlined and efficient process for use by student organizations<sup>1</sup>, including making reservations online and/or changing reservations already in place; and,

**WHEREAS,** Meeting and event rooms are an integral part of a student organization; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Office of the Registrar only controls “about sixty percent of the classrooms on campus” which are considered “general-purpose classrooms by explicit agreements between the academic deans, the provost”<sup>2</sup> and the Office of the Registrar; and,

**WHEREAS,** “Space” includes all indoor and outdoor areas currently reservable by student organizations; and,

**WHEREAS,** Student organization leaders are unable to view the availability of spaces or reserve a meeting room online<sup>3</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** In the Fall of 2011 the Office of the Dean of Students scheduled 7,185 events and/or meetings in general purpose classrooms and incurred 689 changes and cancellations<sup>4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** The University of California-Los Angeles<sup>5</sup>, Ohio State University<sup>6</sup>, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities<sup>7</sup>, the University of Washington-Seattle<sup>8</sup>, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison<sup>9</sup> amongst many others provide students with the ability to reserve rooms online; and,

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<sup>1</sup> Only student organizations registered with the Office of the Dean of Students can reserve rooms at the University of Texas at Austin (<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sa/reservations.php>)

<sup>2</sup> <http://registrar.utexas.edu/staff/rooms>

<sup>3</sup> Exception of the University Unions online scheduling system (<https://ems.universityunions.utexas.edu/VirtualEMS/>)

<sup>4</sup> Conversation with Cynthia Martindale, Student Organization Facilities Coordinator, February 3, 2012

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.studentaffairs.ucla.edu/studentcampuslife/aboutcampuslife1.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ohiounion.osu.edu>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.morris.umn.edu/services/stac>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.washington.edu/studentlife/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.wisc.edu/student-life>

**WHEREAS**, A comprehensive online room reservation system would bring structure and a more reliable system for student organizations to organize efficiently and effectively by showing room availability; and,

**WHEREAS**, A comprehensive online room reservation system would allow for real-time reservations, changes, updates and cancellations that allow student organizations to plan and schedule accordingly; and,

**WHEREAS**, A centralized online room reservation system would include all available spaces on campus for student use including rooms not listed on the general purpose classroom list<sup>10</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, There would be strict guidelines for the use of such rooms; and,

**WHEREAS**, Some rooms may have restrictions on who can reserve the space<sup>11</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, Some rooms may have a fee associated with reserving the space; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin supports the implementation of a centralized comprehensive online room reservation system; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin believes the installation of this system will greatly improve the efficiency, productivity and the well-being of students, especially student organization leaders; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That official copies of this resolution be delivered to the University of Texas at Austin's Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Office of the Registrar, the Office of the Vice President of University Operations, the Office of the Dean of Students, each full time faculty member of the Office of Student Activities, and the academic dean of each college and school.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://registrar.utexas.edu/docs/gpcs/GPCs-20122-rev2.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Many departments only allow students enrolled in that college to reserve the room; many other entities on campus have different and additional restrictions.