

AR 10: In Support of Captioning for Students Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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WHEREAS, Student Government serves as the official voice of all students at The University of Texas at Austin, including students with disabilities.

WHEREAS, The University's *Disability Resources Homepage* states, "The University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible campus community. There are several offices and units dedicated toward this effort."¹

WHEREAS, Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, all have the right to appropriate accommodations such as captioning in and outside classrooms

WHEREAS, There is a population of students with disabilities who rely on captioning or lip reading at large scale events because they do not use American Sign Language

WHEREAS, There are incidents in which professors often do not allow enough time to accommodate students with disabilities, resulting in the student being unable to use audio resources such DVD, VHS, and YouTube without captioning or transcripts.

WHEREAS, UT football games, University Wide Commencement Ceremony, and the State of the University Address are the only big events in which captioning is available

WHEREAS, Major UT events such as Gone to Texas, the University-Wide Graduation ceremony, and most athletics events do not have captioning

WHEREAS, Organizations hosting events are able to send items to Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to have captioning put on them free of charge

WHEREAS, UT utilizes Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), the instant translation of the spoken word into English text using stenotype machine, notebook computer, and realtime software, which the university is able connect to screens

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin shows support to Students with Disabilities and their access to appropriate communication services

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that professors of classrooms in which students who are hearing-impaired are present are required to provide appropriate accommodations

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that professors will submit classroom resources such as video

¹ www.utexas.edu/disability/

and audio found on the syllabus to the SSD office in a timely manner

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that captioning will be provided at all public UT gatherings and events, including but not limited to UT athletic events, campus movie nights, programming, and speaker circuiting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of the Dean of Students will advise all student organizations about captioning services and encourage them to utilize said resources

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that official copies of this resolution be sent to the Dean of Students, and the Vice President of Students Affairs.