



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

*Revised*

*Failed 10/30/01*

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AR 14 A resolution concerning matters of free speech and the disassociation of personal comments made by University faculty, administration, and staff from those opinions of the student body at large. Partially derived from Assembly Resolution 13 presented to the assembly on 10/16/2001.

WHEREAS: University of Texas at Austin President Larry Faulkner, Dr. Robert Jensen, and all other members of the University have a first amendment right to free speech and the liberty to express their own opinions in a public forum.

WHEREAS: Dr. Robert Jensen wrote an article to the Houston Chronicle on September 14, 2001. In response to this article, President Faulkner expressed his personal opinion that Jensen was "...not only misguided, but a fountain of undiluted foolishness on issues of public policy."

WHEREAS: Both Professor Jensen and Dr. Faulkner's comments have created disillusionment among some students and members of the University community as shown in the *Daily Texan Firing Lines*.

WHEREAS: Many members of the University community believe that the responsibility of the President of The University of Texas at Austin is not to obstruct or censor opinion, but to promote an environment conducive to free and intelligent discussion and one receptive to the virtues of academic freedom, opinion, and freedom of speech.

WHEREAS: Some members of the University believe that because of the hierarchical structure of the University system and administration, President Larry Faulkner's opinions are more likely to be interpreted as representative of the members of the University (AR 13).

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin regards President Larry Faulkner's personal statements as counterproductive to promoting an atmosphere supportive of academic freedom and freedom of speech (AR 13), therefore Student Government does not condone, support, or officially recognize President Larry Faulkner nor Professor Robert Jensen's statements as representative of the student body and members of the University community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin believes that all members of the University have a

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right to freedom of speech and expression and does not condone, support, or officially recognize personal statements made by members of the University as an expression of the views of the student body at large.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin promotes and encourages students and members of the University to take a proactive approach in opening up discussion and debate regarding the September 11, 2001 attacks and current U.S. war in Afghanistan (AR 13).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Student Government at the University of Texas at Austin encourages the University to be more proactive in fostering political engagement on campus.

Authored by: Travis Hunt, John Holmes, Leith Abdulla

Sponsored by: Representative Hunt, Representative Holmes