

AR 22: In Support of the Invest in Texas Platform 2013¹

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WHEREAS, Invest in Texas is a non-partisan campaign that advocates for the students of The University of Texas at Austin at the Texas Legislature through the coordinated efforts of the university's three Legislative Student Organizations (LSOs), which include the Student Government, the Senate of College Councils, and the Graduate Student Assembly; and,

WHEREAS, The Invest in Texas platform for 2013 Texas Legislature is divided into four main areas of focus including "Keep Us Affordable," "Keep Us Competitive," "Keep Us Safe," and "Keep Us Represented"; and,

WHEREAS, "Keep Us Affordable" includes to 1) restore UT-Austin state appropriations to 2010 levels, 2) improve levels of financial aid funding, and 3) protect and expand minimum levels of TEXAS Grants per student; and,

WHEREAS, "Keep Us Competitive" includes to 1) allow UT to provide competitive plus-one benefit packages, 2) increase availability of graduate student recruitment packages, and 3) allow UT to decide its own admission policy; and,

WHEREAS, "Keep Us Safe" includes to allow UT to determine its campus gun policy; and,

¹ Referenced Senate of College Councils' S.R. 1215 - In Support of the 2013 Invest in Texas Campaign Platform

WHEREAS, “Keep Us Represented” includes to 1) grant the UT System Student Regent a vote on the Board of Regents and 2) grant the Student Representative on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board a vote.

WHEREAS, That the Invest in Texas Constitution² states in Article I, Section B that the purpose of Invest in Texas is “to represent students at the Texas Legislature as well as to get students involved in the Texas legislative process”; and,

WHEREAS, We, as the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin, serve as the official voice of students and exist to represent student interests to the UT-Austin Administration, among other audiences; and,

WHEREAS, According to the Invest in Texas Memorandum of Understanding, all three LSOs must be an active part of the Invest in Texas campaign; and,

WHEREAS, According to the Invest in Texas Memorandum of Understanding, “[e]ach LSO must approve the Invest in Texas platform, by its own means, in order for the platform to be used by the Invest in Texas campaign.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin approves the platform for the 2013 Invest in Texas campaign; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That The Student Government at The University of Texas at Austin asserts that there is a great value to the University and its students, faculty, and staff in adequately funding UT, allowing UT to stay academically competitive, allowing UT more autonomy in safety policies, and providing UT students a voice on the Board of Regents; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Student Government applauds the university’s reputation of being “a university of the first class” and strives to maintain it by advocating at the legislature on issues of importance to higher education in order for the students’ interests to be represented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the UT Board Of Regents, the Office of the Chancellor, the Office of the President, the Office of Executive Vice President and Provost, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Department of Diversity and Community Engagement, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of Admissions, the Office of the Vice President of Legal Affairs, The Austin American-Statesman, The Texas Tribune, The Horn, and The Daily Texan.

² AB 5 - Invest in Texas Constitution passed through SG Assembly 2011-12