

AR 26 In Support of Creating an Online Student Opinion Database to Review Internships

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WHEREAS, The Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin serves as the official voice of the student body at The University of Texas at Austin to the university administration; and

WHEREAS, Internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths; and¹

WHEREAS, No resource currently available to UT students to find internships includes a component for all students to read and/or provide feedback about past internships; and²

WHEREAS, Research suggests that the online environment promotes a positive interaction among peers that encourages the development of a community, a means for fostering new knowledge, and a way to reflect on practice; and³

WHEREAS, Research suggests that students are inclined to provide more honest feedback when they are sharing the information among their peers rather than a facilitator or instructor; and³

WHEREAS, The database will be UTEID password protected; and

WHEREAS, To the greatest extent possible the identities of the students who submit the internship feedback form will remain confidential

WHEREAS, All students will have to read and electronically sign specific guidelines before submitting the internship feedback form; and

WHEREAS, All content of the database will be monitored by a delegated Student Government member and an employee of the Office of the Dean of Students; and

WHEREAS, Any entry that does not comply with the guidelines will not be posted in the database; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin supports the initiative to create an online student opinion database to review internships; and

¹ http://www.nacweb.org/connections/advocacy/internship_position_paper/

² http://www.lifelearning.utexas.edu/c_internships.html

³ Bye, L., Smith, S., Rallis, H. M. (2009). Reflection using an online discussion forum: Impact on student learning and satisfaction. *Social Work Education*. 28(8), 841-855.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin supports the efforts of this initiative to provide an additional resource for students to learn about their career interests and internship opportunities from other students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be delivered to the Office of the President; the Provost's Office; the Office of the Dean of Students; Senate of College Councils; The Sanger Learning and Career Center; and the directors of the following career services offices: School of Architecture, McCombs School of Business, College of Communications, College of Education, Cockrell School of Engineering, College of Fine Arts, Jackson School of Geosciences, School of Information, School of Law, College of Liberal Arts, College of Natural Sciences, School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, LBJ School of Public Affairs, and School of Social Work.