



113th STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

1 University Station, A6210 · Austin, TX 78712-0810

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Passed 3/31/2020
22-2-3

Executive Summary

A.B. 10: In Support of Defining the Scope of UTSG

Summary

In previous weeks, UTSG Assembly has voted on matters that have raised the following concern: "What matters remain within the scope of address for UTSG and the UTSG Constitution?" This legislation seeks to define some red-tape guidelines so to ensure that UTSG maintains its focus as specified by the preamble of the UTSG Constitution, which is "to investigate student welfare and take appropriate action, to facilitate responsible student participation in the policy and decision-making processes of the University community, to enhance the quality and scope of the student experience at the University, to ensure responsible and effective participation in the organization of student affairs, to transparently, effectively, and responsibly utilize student fees to promote student welfare, and to provide an educational experience for leadership development for students at the University, do ordain and establish this Constitution for The University of Texas at Austin Student Government."

A.B. 10

In Support of Defining the Scope of UTSG

Authors: CHAIR SAMUEL NG (*Legislative Policy Council*), REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN COPE (*LAW SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE*)

Sponsors: REPRESENTATIVE Alex HERSCHMANN (*UGS Representative*), REPRESENTATIVE Isabelle Riback (*First-Year Representative*), CHAIR Jordan Clements (*Rules and Regulations*), REPRESENTATIVE Zach Denn (*University-Wide*), REPRESENTATIVE Nora Balli (*University-Wide*)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

Add to Article X as follows:

Sec 10.8 DEFINING THE VOTING AND ENDORSING SCOPE OF UTSG. Let the scope of student government pertain to matters that affect students and pertain to campus only. These guidelines comply with the overriding message of UTSG Constitution's preamble, which enables UTSG "to investigate student welfare and take appropriate action, to facilitate responsible student participation in the policy and decision-making processes of the University community, to enhance the quality and scope of the student experience at the University, to ensure responsible and effective participation in the organization of student affairs, to transparently, effectively, and responsibly utilize student fees to promote student welfare, and to provide an educational experience for leadership development for students at the University, do ordain and establish this Constitution for The University of Texas at Austin Student Government."

Matters that do not affect students and do not pertain to campus are as follows:

- a. Matters being voted upon or have been voted upon by a legislative body at a municipal, state, federal, or international level, unless said legislation directly mentions by name the University of Texas at Austin or the University of Texas system at large or directly pertains to housing, funding, transportation, safety, and the like, initiatives that would affect UT campus and its students thereof;
- b. Matters that address the affairs of a state or foreign country, unless said state or country directly and independently of an agreement with the US or Texas governments provides funding through an official foreign government agency belonging to said state or country to the University of Texas System

or to public Texas universities;

- c. Cases that are pending in any court outside of the UTSG Supreme Court;
- d. Statements regarding support or condemnation of any political official unless such support or condemnation is issued in response to legislation by said official that directly mentions the University of Texas at Austin or the University of Texas system at large or legislation that impacts housing and affordability of students at the University of Texas at Austin. ¹
- e. Exceptions will be made to allow votes on removing names, artistic depictions, and honorary monuments already on campus and dedicated to political figures.
- f. Exceptions will be made to allow votes on legislation, which while may be political in nature, does not endorse one political ideology over another.



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Decision Paperwork

Presented to the Assembly for the *First Reading* on: 2/18/20

Committed to: Rules and Regulations Committee

Presented to the Assembly of the *Second Reading* on: 3/31/20

The Decision of the 113th Assembly

Ayes: 22 Nays: 2 Abstentions: 3 Date: 3/31/20

Certified by

Jakob Lucas, *Speaker of the Assembly*

Kevin Lee, *Clerk of the Assembly*