

## **AR 20 Supporting Necessary Measures to Accommodate the Needs of ECE Students**

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### **Section I: The Need Created by the Loss of ECE LRC Computer Labs**

**WHEREAS**, The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) no longer has its own Learning Resource Center (LRC) computer labs; and,

**WHEREAS**, ECE students require specific software to do homework<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, This software is only installed on ECE LRC lab computers; and,

**WHEREAS**, It has become necessary for ECE students to install VMware™, software that enables students to virtually connect to ECE lab computers via their personal computer, on their personal computers<sup>2</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, The only viable alternative to VMware™ is for individual students to install the software already hosted on the ECE computers at a substantial cost to the student<sup>3</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, Electrical and Computer Engineers have access to many campus computers without VMware™ installed<sup>4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, For these computers to become designated VMware™ clients would be at little to no cost to The University<sup>5</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, Personal computers are often subject to unforeseen circumstances which can prevent a student from connecting to VMware™; and,

**WHEREAS**, Campus-wide laptop rentals are not viable alternatives for ECE students unable to access VMware™ via a personal computer<sup>6</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, Having VMware™ installed on more on-campus computers would make the program accessible to those without personal computers as well as provide central locations for students to collaborate on campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, Collaboration on campus will encourage an increase in the retention rate of ECE students; and,

### **Section II: Scarcity of Hosts**

<sup>1</sup> [http://registrar.utexas.edu/schedules/119/regrulesbydept/all.html#e\\_e](http://registrar.utexas.edu/schedules/119/regrulesbydept/all.html#e_e)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/remote\\_windows.cfm](http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/remote_windows.cfm)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/engineering\\_applications.cfm](http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/engineering_applications.cfm)

<sup>4</sup> All libraries, FAC, RLM, WEL

<sup>5</sup> <https://cse.vdesk.utexas.edu/> - only cost would be hourly wages for the IT workers while they install VMware™. VMware™ software is free.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/laptop\\_checkout.cfm](http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/laptop_checkout.cfm)

**WHEREAS,** Currently, there are only 110 VMware™ host computers responsible for servicing over 1300 ECE students<sup>7</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** The current student-to-host ratio is grossly inefficient and inhibitive of productivity for ECE students<sup>8</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** There is currently an additional and ample supply of computers available to become designated VMware™ on-campus hosts<sup>9</sup>; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** The Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin calls for more computers to be designated on-campus hosts for VMware™; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** The Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin believes that installing VMware™ on more computers, thereby designating them VMware™ clients, would make it easier for ECE students to collaborate effectively and efficiently; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** The Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin believes that while a necessary measure, the creation of more VMware™ host and client computers is only a temporary solution to a permanent problem and strongly encourages Cockrell School of Engineering and University administrators to seek a more permanent solution; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** A copy of this legislation will be mailed to the offices of The Dean of Engineering, The Chairman of The Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, The Chairman of The Mechanical Engineering Department, The Chairman of The Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics Department, The Chairman of The Biomedical Engineering Department, The Chairman of The Chemical Engineering Department, The Chairman of The Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering Department, The Chairman of The Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering Department, The Chairmen of The Materials Science and Engineering Department, The Chairman of The Operations Research and Industrial Engineering Department, The Director of The Cockrell School IT Department, and The Director of The University of Texas IT Department

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/remote\\_windows.cfm](http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/remote_windows.cfm);

[http://www.engr.utexas.edu/attachments/fact\\_sheet\\_2010\\_1207.pdf](http://www.engr.utexas.edu/attachments/fact_sheet_2010_1207.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/remote\\_windows.cfm](http://www.ece.utexas.edu/it/remote_windows.cfm)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.utexas.edu/its/campus-labs/>