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several abstentions & there was not
unanimous vote

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Title In Support of Fiscal Accountability and Equal Access to Campus Recreational Facilities for Students who are Parents
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Version 4

Section I: "What Starts Here Changes the World"

Whereas "The University of Texas at Austin Student Government serves as the official student voice to the UT administration, the Board of Regents, and the Texas Legislature." (1)

Whereas The Student Government's official liaison at the Division of Recreational Sports is Jennifer Speer, Communications Director. On June 19th, 2006, the Daily Texan reported: "Jennifer Speer said that the pool hours were set by the RecSports Advisory Committee after consulting SG and reviewing policies of other institutions throughout the country... 'SG set the limits in order to create an 'adult environment,' Speer said." (2)

Whereas The Division of Recreational Sports serves students, faculty and staff. Their mission states: "We work diligently to earn the confidence and loyalty of our customers by providing a diverse, innovative and responsive program that focuses on participant satisfaction." (3)

Whereas "In 2002 Dr. Robert Peterson of the McCombs School of Business conducted a statewide perceptual survey... One thousand randomly selected Texas adults were interviewed... Texans believed... the second-most important characteristic of top universities is the ability to attract the best faculty." Our motto, "*We're Texas. What Starts Here Changes the World*" identifies a sense of community for our faculty and their family members that exceeds that of our official comparison schools. Thus, we will assert ourselves as a leading public university in the nation. (4)

Section II: Leisure Pool Family Hours

Whereas The median number of family swim hours in effect at the leisure pools on the campuses of The University of Texas at Austin's Official Comparison Schools is 59.5 hours during the summer and 59 hours during the winter. (5)

Whereas the Division of Recreational Sports currently offers 13 children's swim hours at the Gregory Aquatic Complex per week: Fridays from 5pm-10pm, Saturdays 10am-noon and Sundays 10am-noon. (6)

Whereas The Outdoor Lap Pool and the Outdoor Event Pool at the Gregory Aquatic Complex offer shallow depths of 3'6" that are suitable for use by young children. It is common for small children to begin naptime around 12:30pm. It is also common for children to begin their bedtime routines well before 8pm. A total of 2 children's hours available for use in shallow depths occur during hours that do not coincide with naptime or bedtime. (7-8)

Section III: Family Locker Rooms at Recreational Sports Facilities

Whereas The University of Illinois, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of California at Berkeley, Ohio State University and Indiana University provide family changing rooms in their recreational sports facilities and have policies in accordance with the availability of these rooms. (9)

Whereas the Division of Recreational Sports does not offer family locker rooms, yet uses the same policies as the universities that have family locker rooms. "Children over five may not use the locker room of the opposite sex" and "The member parent or adult guardian must remain in the immediate activity area to supervise children at all times." (10)

Section IV: Family Events

Whereas The University of California at Los Angeles, The University of Minnesota and Indiana University offer free family events. UCLA offers Waterfest, magic shows, outdoor movie viewings and barbecues. Every week, the University of Minnesota allows its members to bring their immediate families to Sunday Family Day at no charge. Indiana University hosts Family Night every month. (11)

Whereas The Division of Recreational Sports offers Youth Camps in soccer (ages 5-13), lacrosse (ages 9-17) and ultimate disc (ages 9-17). The Youth Camps cost \$125 per child and are available to the public. Students do not receive a discount for their children. (12)

Section V: Consumer Costs

Whereas Three of The University of Texas at Austin's official comparison schools allow small children to swim free of charge. At The Ohio State University, "Anyone holding a current membership can bring immediate family members... for no additional charge during family hours." At the University of Minnesota "Children under the age of 8 are free." At the University of Illinois "children ages 3 and under are free." (13)

Whereas The median charges for a child's day swim pass at The University of Texas at Austin's official comparison schools is as follows: \$2 for children up to 3 years old, \$3.50 for ages 4-7 years old and \$4 for children 8-17 years old. These charges do not include free family events. (14)

Whereas Students, faculty and staff purchase RecSports memberships for their children, ranging from \$30 - \$104 per semester. (15)

Whereas The Division of Recreational Sports charges \$8 for a guest day pass for a child of any age. (16)

Whereas For the typical undergraduate paying flat rate tuition, \$12.75 will go towards the Aquatic Complex Fee in Fall 2006. (17)

Section VI: Child Care Services

Whereas The recreational sports program at The Ohio State University offers child care services for students. "Members can leave their children, ages 4 months to 6 years, up to 2 hours at a time in the care of Red Cross certified workers." (18)

Whereas The Division of Recreational Sports does not offer any childcare for students while they work out. (19)

Section VI: Fiscal Accountability

Whereas According to the Office of the Registrar, "Every student who registers, unless registered in absentia, pays the following fees. For undergraduates, flat rate tuition includes these fees." The total amount of fees varies from student to student based on flat rate tuition or, in the case of graduate and professional students, the number of hours of enrollment. (20)

Whereas If faculty, staff and students elect to stop purchasing RecSports memberships for their family members, it will adversely impact RecSports' revenue thereby affecting student costs.

Whereas The student authors who pay fees would like to have their RecSports fees refunded in order to be able to purchase gym memberships at local gyms that offer a pro-family environment. (21)

Section VII: Ensuring Student Representation

Whereas The 2005-2006 Recreational Sports Committee, which evaluated the current policies, did not include any students who are parents or any graduate students. At this time, the Division of Recreational Sports has not posted the 2006-2007 Recreational Sports Committee member list. (22)

Whereas Of the 15 Recreational Sports Committee members, only 4 are students. "The Recreational Sports Committee is comprised of 15 members of the university community. This Presidential standing committee includes six members of the general faculty, two members of the university staff, two from the Faculty Council, and four students." (23)

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Student Government recognizes that the Division of Recreational Sports strives to be a model among our comparison schools by offering services to students in all aspects.

Be It Further Resolved That the Student Government requests that the Division of Recreational Sports provide documentation of the specific processes and procedures through which Student Government sets the limits for RecSports policies.

Be It Further Resolved That the Student Government kindly requests that Division of Recreational Sports investigate and subsequently provide a written response to the following concerns: the number of family hours available at the Gregory Aquatic Center (section II), access to family locker rooms (section III), the availability of free family activities (section IV), the availability of child swim passes and the opportunity for small children to swim free of charge (section V) and the availability of child care services (section VI).

Be It Further Resolved That the Student Government requests that the Division of Recreational Sports provide students, including students who are parents, with an opportunity to increase satisfaction with RecSports facilities through data collection and research surveys and to subsequently make the results of those studies available to students (section VII).

Be It Further Resolved That the Student Government requests that the Division of Recreational Sports provide a timeline for completing the aforementioned requests.

Be It Further Resolved That the Student Government appreciates its mutually beneficial relationship with the Division of Recreational Sports and would like to thank Mr. Tom Dison for his steadfast commitment to the members of the Student Government.

Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution will be sent to the Communications Director of the Division of Recreational Sports, to the Director of the Division of Recreational Sports and to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Comments