

A.R.8

A RESOLUTION ADVOCATING THAT A NEW RACE RELATIONS COUNSELOR BE HIRED IMMEDIATELY.

WHEREAS: In 1989, UT Provost Mark Yudof, chairman of the committee appointed to determine the policies on racial harassment on campus, recommended that it was extremely important to have the services of a race relations counselor at the University of Texas at Austin, and

WHEREAS: In 1990, certain racial harassment incidents among fraternities occurred that vividly illustrated some of the discrimination and animosity that minority students on this campus face, leaving a lingering impression among minority students today, and

WHEREAS: The previous race relations counselor, Mr. Curtis Polk, earlier this month resigned, leaving the position currently vacant, and

WHEREAS: The University administration has demonstrated that this issue lacks priority, due to the fact that a successor has not been found, and won't be named for quite some time according to the Dean of Students, and

WHEREAS: The Office of the Dean of Students has considered replacing the position of race relations counselor with other administrators focusing upon multiple responsibilities, thereby phasing the position out, and

WHEREAS: There is currently no formal infrastructure to resolve disputes in an expeditious and efficient fashion which sends to students an unclear message, leaving them vulnerable to future racial harassment incidents, and

WHEREAS: Without a race relations counselor, the University will perpetuate the image among students, faculty, and the public that this campus is a hostile environment for minority students, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN THAT:

The Students' Association stand firm in its commitment to student services by advocating to the University of Texas administration that a new Race Relations Counselor be hired immediately.

- 1) The position of Race Relations Counselor should not be eliminated. In fact, it should be made a top priority by the University.

- 2) Students should be informed about the candidates that are being screened for the position.
- 3) Students should be given the opportunity to serve on the selection committee, and priority should be given to minority students since it is those policies by the new counselor that will ultimately affect said students.

Sponsored by Representative Garcia