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TITLE: In Support of a Wheelchair-accessible Van
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WHEREAS The University of Texas at Austin has visitors, students¹, faculty, and staff with permanent and temporary disabilities that impact transportation needs,

WHEREAS Services for Students with Disabilities receives two or more inquiries per month asking whether or not a wheelchair-accessible van is available²,

WHEREAS a wheelchair-accessible van will help faculty and students attend class field trips,

WHEREAS a wheelchair-accessible van will make the University more welcoming and inclusive to prospective students, faculty, staff and visitors by facilitating campus tours,

WHEREAS a wheelchair-accessible van could help the City of Austin and the University better accommodate guests with mobility disabilities such as The University of Texas at Arlington's wheelchair basketball team, which visited Governor Rick Perry in March 2007³,

WHEREAS the University of California – Berkley⁴, the University of California – Los Angeles⁵, Indiana University⁶, the University of Nebraska⁷, and the University of Illinois⁸ have wheelchair-accessible vans,

WHEREAS other universities, such as the University of Michigan⁹, the University of Minnesota¹⁰, and Texas A&M University¹¹, provide curb-to-curb service,

WHEREAS the Ohio State University¹² provides door-to-door service,

¹ There are 1,200 students registered with Services for Students disabilities: 45 students have mobility disabilities, 40 to 50 have visual disabilities, and approximately 100 students have chronic medical conditions.

² Conversation with Deborah McCarthy, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement.

³ Conversation with Linda Millstone, Institutional Equity and Workforce Diversity.

⁴ Website (http://acads.chance.berkeley.edu/CAG/CAG_Transportation_Options.shtml)

⁵ Website (<http://www.osd.ucla.edu/docs/Handbooks/OSDStudent.htm>)

⁶ Website (<http://156.56.90.43/dss/additional.html>)

⁷ Website (<http://www.unl.edu/ssd/departments/transport.shtml>)

⁸ Website (<http://fmweb.fm.uic.edu/Trans/paratransit.aspx>)

⁹ Website (<http://fmweb.fm.uic.edu/Trans/paratransit.aspx>)

¹⁰ Website (<http://www1.umn.edu/pts/disability-busing.htm>)

¹¹ Website (<http://transport.tamu.edu/transit/paratransit.aspx>)

¹² Website (<http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/parking.asp>)

WHEREAS a 2007 model would cost about \$35,500.00 and a 2008 model¹³ would cost about \$40,000¹⁴,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin requests the University acquire a full- size wheelchair-accessible van with a lift,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an official copy of this legislation be printed and distributed to the Associate Vice President for Institutional Equity and Workforce Diversity, the Director of the Students with Disabilities division, the President of the University, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Dean of Students, and the Vice President of Diversity and Community Engagement.

¹³ This model will hold up to 3 wheelchairs and 5 ambulatory or 2 wheelchairs and 7 ambulatory passengers.

¹⁴ Conversation with Theron Beck of Jordan Ford in San Antonio.