

Passed by roll call vote 16-15-1 4/26/05

AR:	3
Title:	Opposing proposed changes to the TSP Operating Agreement from the March 4th 2005 meeting of the Texas Student Publications Board of Operating Trustees
Stage:	TABLED - 04/14/2005
Owner:	Steven Hardt
Modified:	2005-04-25

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Section: The Daily Texan is owned by the students of the University of Texas at  
003| Austin

004| **Whereas** [1]the first issue of the Texan appeared on October 8, 1900.  
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006| **Whereas** [2]the University of Texas acquired the Texan in 1904. The March 1904  
007| volume of the University Record says that "The present year has been rendered  
008| notable by the acquisition of the Texan and the Cactus. The Texan is a college  
009| weekly paper, and hitherto has been the private property of Geo S. Wright and J.M.  
010| Newsom, from which it was recently purchased." [the University Record, Volume 5,  
011| March 1904, page 285]

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013| **Whereas** [3]all students must pay the Student Service Fee. [General Information  
014| Catalog, Section 3]

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016| **Whereas** [4]over \$100,000 in student fees have been allocated each year to the  
017| Daily Texan since 1984. [Lynn Davis, Vice President of Student Affairs]

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019| **Whereas** [5]the 2004 to 2005 Student Service Fee Committee allocated \$270,300 to  
020| the Daily Texan [Report by the 2004 to 2005 Student Service Fee Committee]

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022| **Whereas** [6]students at the University of Texas are required to pay for a  
023| subscription to the Daily Texan through state mandated student fees. [Texas  
024| Education Code Section 54.513]

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026| **Whereas** [7]a Texan editorial in 1903 states "If you are a student in this  
027| University, you are part owner of the weekly paper. It belongs to you."

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Section: The Daily Texan is the most influential news source at the University of  
031| Texas at Austin

032| **Whereas** [8]the Daily Texan receives the most Student Services Fees going towards  
033| it compared to all other student media.

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035| **Whereas** [9]the Daily Texan has the highest daily circulation of all other student  
036| media.

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038| **Whereas** [10]Section: The Texas Student Publications Board meeting on March 4, 2005

# Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin

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040| **Whereas** [11]the 2004 Texas Open Meetings Handbook states, "The Open Meetings Act  
041| (the "act"), chapter 551 of the Government Code, provides that meetings of  
042| governmental bodies must be open to the public, except for expressly authorized  
043| executive sessions, and that the public must be given notice of the time, place  
044| and subject matter of meetings of governmental bodies. It does not, however, set  
045| out all procedures applicable to meetings of governmental bodies. Issues of agenda  
046| preparation, for example, are addressed by other sources of law. Any additional  
047| procedures that a governmental body adopts for the conduct of its meetings must be  
048| consistent with the Open Meetings Act."

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050| **Whereas** [12]the Agenda of the March 4, 2005 meeting of the Texas Student  
051| Publications Board of Operating Trustees listed on its agenda "TSP Operating  
052| Agreement."

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054| **Whereas** [13]the meeting of the Texas Student Publications Board of Operating  
055| Trustees on March 4, 2005 changed the nature of the editor of the Daily Texan.

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057| **Whereas** [14]violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act would nullify the actions of  
058| the TSP Board Meeting on March 4, 2005.

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060| **Whereas** [15]Section: Appointment under the proposed process

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062| **Whereas** [16]the proposed changes would give the TSP board the duty to appoint the  
063| Daily Texan editor in chief

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065| **Whereas** [17]the TSP Board consists of 6 elected students, 3 College of  
066| Communication Faculty and 2 individuals from business industry.

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068| **Whereas** [18]student members of the TSP board are elected in campus wide elections  
069| concurrent with campus wide Student Government elections.

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071| **Whereas** [19]the President of the University of Texas has the power and duty to  
072| appoint the 3 College of Communication Faculty and the 2 individuals from business  
073| industry.

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075| **Whereas** [20]the President of the University of Texas has the power and duty to  
076| appoint a student to a vacant student position.

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## Section: Journalistic Ethics

080| **Whereas** [21]the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics states that  
081| "Journalists should encourage the public to voice grievances against the news  
082| media."

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084| **Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Student Government of the University of Texas at  
085| Austin is concerned with the way the TSP board handled its March 4, 2005 meeting  
086| with regards to the Open Meetings Act.

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088| **Be It Further Resolved** that SG recognizes that students are owners of the Daily  
089| Texan

# Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin

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091| **Be It Further Resolved** that SG opposes the proposed changes to make editor

092| appointed by the TSP board.

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## Footnotes

None

## Comments

Media Comments:

The March 4th meeting of the Texas Student Publications changed the nature of the Editor of the Daily Texan. The TSP moved, without coherent student input, to end elections for Editor in Chief of the Daily Texan. This resolution is against TSP changes on the basis of TSP member distribution, student ownership of the Daily Texan, and a lack of student input into the student newspaper.

## Authors

Steven Hardt (Two Year at Large Representative), Michael Windle (Two Year at Large Representative)

## Sponsors

Megan Clifford (Liberal Arts Representative), Jessica Fertitta (One Year at Large Representative), Steven Hardt (Two Year at Large Representative), Eric Longoria (Natural Science Representative), Berkley Scroggins (Communication Representative), Grant Stanis (Business Representative), Michael Windle (Two Year at Large Representative)

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