



SMU Student Senate

Legislative Number: S-109-05

Final Vote: 35-0-0

Authors(x): Castle, Meyer, Benso, et. al.

Senate Secretary: Hope Heiden

Vice President for Student Affairs: Dr. K.C. Mmeje

Senate Speaker: Krish Madhura

A Resolution for the 109th Student Senate to Pledge \$100,000 and Partner with Administration to Build an Outdoor Seating Space

WHEREAS

students at Southern Methodist University desire more outdoor seating access on campus to enjoy the company of their peers outside, especially on sunny days.

ACKNOWLEDGING

for many years, candidates for SMU Student Senate officer positions have run on a platform to expand campus infrastructure including outdoor seating without having resources to properly fulfill these campaign pledges; and

ACKNOWLEDGING

SMU is known for being one of the most beautiful campuses among colleges and universities across the nation as we were ranked 2nd in the country for most beautiful campuses according to the best 380 colleges in the Princeton Review in 2015; and

ACKNOWLEDGING

SMU constantly strives to maintain this ranking and must do so by investing in projects that elevate its aesthetic.

RECOGNIZING

the benefits of outdoor seating areas, including improved mental health, increased physical activity, and greater sense of community and belonging.

WHEREAS

the Executive Committee and Senate chamber ought to work towards the demands and requests of



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students such as the implementation of outdoor seating to better serve the student body of SMU.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

that the 109th Student Senate, on its own initiative to demonstrate that the SMU Student Body feels strongly about this matter, pledges \$100,000 of the liquidated funds from the Investment Fund in Spring 2023 to go towards the addition of outdoor seating that will, among other benefits, provide SMU students areas outside that foster student engagement, socialization, and academic success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that the 109th Student Senate charges the subsequent two chambers to capitalize on this funding allocation by working with University Administration to define and fund the space and scope of the outdoor seating project; and

EMPHASIZING

that the pledge listed above has a two-year hard cap and the money must be expensed by the end of the 111th chamber in April 2025; and

NOTING

that if it is not expensed by the end of this two-year period, the money will be returned to the Student Senate fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that the allocation of \$100,000 will be the maximum amount given by Student Senate to fulfill the students' contribution toward the payment required for the installation of outdoor seating; and

NOTING

once there is a completed plan agreed upon by Student Senate and University Administration, a new piece of legislation must be presented outlining the agreement to be approved by the current chamber in order to pull the funds.



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CONCLUDING

that this is the first step to increase the necessary infrastructure required to create a long-term, classic, versatile space on SMU's campus that is permanent and sustainable for the SMU Student Body.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Student Body President

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Michael Castle

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