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**S.R.2019.2020.31**

**Date of First Reading: March 30, 2020**

**A Resolution –**

To be known as “A Resolution in Calling for a Students Focused Response to Coronavirus” which calls on the University administration to establish student-centered policies that will help reduce coronavirus spread and support students who may become sick with COVID-19.

**WHEREAS:** On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as a global pandemic[[1]](#footnote-1); and

**WHEREAS:**  Texas State University has responded to the crisis by extending spring break until March 23 and suspending in-person classes until April 12[[2]](#footnote-2); and

**WHEREAS:** Closure and reduction of campus resources will cause impacts to students lives and specific issues are presented to the crisis that is unique to a university campus; and

**WHEREAS:** The underinsured and uninsured are likely to be highly impacted by the price of the Coronavirus testing and intense raspatory therapy required to treat the COVID-19 disease caused by the virus; and

**WHEREAS:** Even if a student does have insurance, the out-of-pocket costs are variable from network to network and because the Student Health Center does not accept all insurance plans even the ensured may not be able to cover the costs of treatment. A sick student should only have to worry about being tested and treated for COVID-19, cost should not be a factor in a student’s decision to get treatment; and

**WHEREAS:** Social distancing is an important practice individual can take to help prevent the spread of the virus ensure that students who are sick do not feel economic pressure to come to an on-campus job while sick, the university should create liberal job guarantees and paid sick leave for its students during the crisis; and

**WHEREAS:**  The response intended to prevent the possible outbreak of coronavirus at Texas State University would prevent many student workers from being able to work and therefore earn an income; and

**WHEREAS:** Disruptions to in-person classroom education may harm students’ academic performance, especially given the difference between the online class and in-person class experience, the Provost’s office should guide fair and compassionate grading policies to prevent graduating students from failing to meet academic progress toward graduation; NOW, THEREFORE:

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That Texas State University use all its resources and take any necessary steps, in accordance with the law, to respond to the Coronavirus outbreak, focusing on the lives and livelihood of students including:

1. Make all Coronavirus testing and treatment issued by the Student Health Center free for students that are uninsured and underinsured.
2. Subsidize the cost of Coronavirus testing and treatment at the Student Health Center so that the effective out-of-pocket cost to students who are insured such that the testing and care is effectively free.
3. Issue job guarantees for any student who properly notifies their on-campus employer of sickness and fails to attend regular work hours.
4. Where possible during the Coronavirus crisis, and in accordance with the law, provide all those classified as student workers at Texas State University who report an illness to their campus employer with two weeks of cumulative paid leave at the same pay scale, rates, and hourly totals as the student would have reasonably earned if they were able to attend work.
5. Have representatives of the Department of Housing and Residence Life Achieving Community Together (ACT) Ally program connect with its partnering student housing complexes to promote rent assistance and waive late fees for rent unpaid during the Coronavirus crisis.
6. To accommodate learning style difference in online verses face-to-face classwork, the Provost’s office will issue guidance for more flexible grading policies including changes in how class performance is assessed including changes to weighting, timing, and nature of assessments, only such that it is altered to the benefit of students and is equitable to all students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That upon passage and signature, the Student Body President expedite the transmission of this legislation to the University President, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President of Finance and Support Services, and the Director of the Student Health Center; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That upon passage this resolution be forwarded to the Student Body President for further action.

1. [Statement from World Health Organization, declaring COVID-19 a Global Pandemic](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Statement from President Trauth on Coronavirus Response](https://news.txstate.edu/inside-txst/2020/statements-regarding-coronavirus-covid-19/extending-spring-break-one-week-for-students-and-moving-to-remote-courses-through-april-12-march-12-2020.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)