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S.R. 07 2018-2019

Commented [KW1]: Add coding number.

Date of First Reading: November 26th, 2018
A Resolution-

To be entitled - "A Resolution to Improve Campus Access and Awareness of Bobcats with Disabilities," relating to use and expansion of accessibility features on campus, as well as accessibility to information about campus layout

WHEREAS: Texas State University is committed to providing equal opportunity and access to all students, and ensuring that no student encounters any discrimination or undue barriers which hinder their ability to participate in campus life and/or prevent them from maximizing their academic, career, and personal development potential; and

WHEREAS: An important part of this is ensuring that campus is accessible to those who may have disabilities. This includes those who are mobility impaired and who may have a difficult time traversing stairs, large bumps, steep inclines, and other

obstacles that those without disabilities may be able to overcome more easily; and

WHEREAS: To better serve these individuals Texas State University has accessibility features, such as ramps and automatic doors in areas where the physical and architectural factors may otherwise prevent people with disabilities from moving freely about the campus; and

WHEREAS: A pattern has been observed of these accessibility features being misused, such as with individuals riding bikes and skateboards down accessibility ramps; and

WHEREAS: Student Government also recognizes the difficulty faced by students who are visually impaired. These students encounter extra obstacles navigating campus as they may find it difficult or be unable to access conventional methods, such as printed maps, of illustrating the location of different areas on campus; and

WHEREAS: Last year, Student Government passed a resolution discouraging improper use of accessibility features to no avail; and

WHEREAS: Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in "places of public accommodation" and "commercial facilities" (42 U.S.C. §12181 et seq. and 28 C.F.R. Part 36); and

WHEREAS: One of Texas State University's core values is Service: We are student-centered. When we establish policies, make decisions

or take actions, we do so with the best interest of students in mind; and

WHEREAS: This includes and ought to include all students; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: That Texas State University shall, in places where accessibility features exist, place an informational statement in large text, using an overhead banner if possible, providing:

a) A clear statement that the accessibility feature is for people with disabilities only.

b) A brief explanation of why abiding by this is important: the need to respect the rights of people with disabilities and to allow them access to the services that enable them to access and exercise those rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Texas State add a brail map, consisting of a physical model of the campus with brail symbols to indicate information about it, in both the LBJ Student Center and Ingram Hall, with evaluation and consideration of the possibility of placing this or a similar feature in other buildings on campus as administration and the student body see fit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That bicycles, skateboards, scooters, and other transportation devices used for purposes other than assisting those with disabilities be prohibited on the accessibility ramps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Texas State University should incorporate expansion of ramps which are currently too narrow for two-way

traffic into the campus master plan, and should begin these projects as soon as reasonably possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That all Texas State University buildings shall have an ADA Compliant automated door which is in the location that is reasonably accessible to students during their day to day business, such as at the main entrance or side entrances which deemed necessary for the building to be readily accessible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: This legislation be forwarded to the Student Body President for further action.