Memorandum In Support of The Dean’s Student Board Petition

As of the Fall 2017 semester, the College of Sciences (COS) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) educates and supports 3,926 undergraduate and 483 graduate students, with the Flawn Sciences Building serving as a hub for many of the required and elective courses those students will take or have already taken. Given that the Student Government Association (SGA) at UTSA’s responsibility as per the SGA Constitution is to advocate for the well being of the students, the SGA must consider any and all actions that may be necessary to further the interests of the students it represents, including those students that may utilize the Flawn Sciences Building.

The Flawn Sciences Building currently lacks many of the features that facilitate efficient and effective learning and collaboration - two qualities among many that are paramount to ensuring the success of students and therefore the success of the university. The lack of collaborative space contributes to high drop, fail, and withdraw (DFW) rates in the COS’ most demanding courses. Improving, modernizing, and equipping the Flawn Sciences Building with collaboration spaces with more electrical outlets, collaborative desks and tables, comfortable study areas, glass writing surfaces, and similar furnishings will improve not only DFW rates, but retention rates and recruitment as well. It is only fair to students in the COS that the same renovation efforts to other spaces commonly used for collaboration such as the John Peace Library and the North Paseo Building be applied to the Flawn Sciences Building.

The COS Dean’s Student Board (DSB) has proposed in petition-form that the above as well as several other significant renovations occur on the third floor of the Flawn Science Building, which will provide a centralized location for students to study and work with a significant number of classes in the immediate vicinity. The improvements listed in both this memorandum and in the DSB’s petition will not only greatly improve the quality of education for current students, but will do the same for recruitment and retention rates. With all this in mind, the UTSA SGA wholly supports the DSB’s Proposal and Petition to renovate the Flawn Sciences Building on behalf of the COS students both organizations represent and urges the appropriate administrators to consider moving forward with this initiative.

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