

Resolution 17-18-3

Title: “A resolution opposing the raising of department-set course “caps” and/or limits”

Resolved:

Whereas the use of clearly articulated University policies and procedures represents “best practices” for an academic institution;

Whereas the setting of class sizes represent an important pedagogical decision that affects the opportunity for students to receive high-quality instruction and succeed academically;

Whereas academic department heads and faculty, in consultation with their College Deans, are best positioned to determine the appropriate limits for course sizes for their departments based upon pedagogical and academic considerations for the benefits of students;

Whereas Texas A&M University Commerce has generally deferred to the decisions of academic department heads, after consultation with their Deans;

Whereas faculty teaching loads and teaching assistant assignments are based upon initial course caps;

Whereas construction of a course syllabus and course assignments, including assignment types, are based upon an assessment of the initial course caps ;

Whereas recent actions by the University Administration have significantly departed from this practice without clear evidence of consideration of pedagogical interests

Be it Resolved that the Faculty Senate hereby formally opposes the changing of class caps without consultation of Academic Department heads;

Be it Further Resolved that the Faculty Senate opposes the changing of class caps once the academic year has begun;

Be it Further Resolved that the Faculty Senate requests that the process of determining class sizes must always include pedagogical concerns;

Be it Further Resolved that the Faculty Senate authorizes the Senate President to formally express these positions to Texas A&M University-Commerce President, Dr. Raymond Keck and Texas A&M University-Commerce Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. John Humphreys.

Be it Further Resolved that the Faculty Senate authorizes the Faculty Senate President to discuss alternatives with the aforementioned administration officials.

Sponsor: Senator King

Co-sponsor(s): Senator Smith

Action: Passed by a vote of 22-0-1

Date: 10/3/17