



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
Senate Resolution 21.21

(Stating the sentiments of the Student Senate to the Texas Senate Committee for Finance and the House Committee on Appropriations regarding support for increased TEXAS Grant funding)

WHEREAS, under the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant Program provides grant aid to students with financial need who are attending a Texas public university or health-related institution, and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2019 (FY18-19), only 59% of eligible students for a TEXAS grant received a grant, falling short of meeting the year's projection of distributing grants to 70% of eligible students by a margin of 11%, and

WHEREAS, in the following year, the State of Texas requested that institutions and agencies reduce their 2020-2021 biennial appropriations by 5%, leading the THECB to further reduce an already underfunded TEXAS grant allocation by 5%, and

WHEREAS, to meet this shortfall in funding for Texas students, the Commissioner of Higher Education presented to the State of Texas Senate Committee for Finance a requested increase of \$110 million for the three state financial aid programs for 2022-2023, which include TEXAS grants, and would allow grant funding to return to a level where 60% of students who are eligible would receive a grant, and

WHEREAS, this shortfall in grant aid only continues to grow with an increasing number of yearly qualified applicants to the need-based program met with a stagnation in funding level, and

WHEREAS, the students of the Texas Tech University System, including the University, Health Sciences Centers, and Angelo State University, are among those eligible for and **dependent on** TEXAS grants to cover costs of education, yet feature a growing population of qualifying students failing to receive grant aid due to limited State funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center supports increased funding for the TEXAS grant program in a joint effort to

facilitate the education of not only University students, but public university students **statewide**, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate urges the Texas Senate Committee for Finance and the Texas House Committee on Appropriations to adopt an increased allocation for TEXAS grant funding to restore eligible student grant distribution levels to a threshold of 60%, in an attempt to foster financial aid efforts for public Texas higher-level education, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be sent to **Marcus Gonzalez**, *TTUHSC SGA President*; **Chase Seabolt**, Editor of *The Daily Toreador*, and to the students of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

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SCIENCES CENTER

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Marcus Gonzalez
President, Student Senate