

STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF CAMERON

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**RESOLUTION 2012R12157**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ON THE 20th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2012, THE CAMERON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT CONVENED IN REGULAR SESSION, AND UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CAMERON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE SAID COURT FOR SUCH MEETING, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.041 *ET. SEQ.*, VERNON'S TEXAS CIVIL STATUTES (THE TEXAS OPEN MEETING ACT) TO BE CONSIDERED

**“CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BOARD OF REGENTS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A VALLEYWIDE EMERGING RESEARCH FACILITY AND MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY.”**

**WHEREAS,** on December 6, 2012, the Chancellor of the University of Texas, Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa proposed an initiative to the University of Texas System Board of Regents to establish a new university that includes the University of Texas at Brownsville, the University of Texas-Pan American and the future South Texas School of Medicine; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Regents unanimously approved this initiative which would result in a single institution that spans the entire Rio Grande Valley, with a presence in each of the major metropolitan areas of Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen and McAllen; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Regents also approved the allocation of \$100 million over the next 10 years to accelerate the pace of transitioning the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen to a school of medicine; and

**WHEREAS,** if approved by the Texas legislature it would make this new institution eligible for revenue from Permanent University Fund (PUF) – a major catalyst for building a world class research facility of higher learning complemented with a school of medicine for the entire Rio Grande Valley; and

**WHEREAS,** the plan proposed and approved would result in a single institution spanning the Rio Grande valley with a presence in each of the major metropolitan areas of Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen and McAllen; and

**WHEREAS,** it is estimated that this initiative would spur economic growth and create over 10,000 jobs initially; and

**WHEREAS,** the County Commissioners of Cameron County recognizes that this is one of the largest educational and economic development opportunities for our region; and

**WHEREAS,** this Commissioner's Court wants to personally thank Chancellor Cigarroa and the Board of Regents for their vision to transform the educational landscape of the Rio Grande Valley and to allow our future generations an opportunity to succeed in a medical profession given the close proximity they will have to an illustrious institution like the University of Texas Medical School in South Texas.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cameron County Commissioners' Court unanimously expresses its strong support to establish a valley wide emerging research facility and a medical school in the Rio Grande Valley and respectfully requests that all elected leaders in Austin support this initiative which has been a priority of this body and has been at the forefront for many leaders in the region for many years.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on this 20th day of December, 2012.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

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CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA  
COUNTY JUDGE

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SOFIA C. BENAVIDES  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

---

DAVID A. GARZA  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

---

ERNIE L. HERNANDEZ, JR.  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

---

DAN A. SANCHEZ  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
JOE G. RIVERA, COUNTY CLERK

**RESOLUTION  
IN SUPPORT OF UTPA & UTB UNIVERSITY MERGER**

**WHEREAS**, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the University of Texas System announced plans to merge the University of Texas Pan American, The University of Texas Brownsville and the Regional Academic Health Center at a University of Texas Board of Regents meeting; University of Texas Brownsville President Juliet V. Garcia and University of Texas Pan American President Robert Nelsen expressed their support of the proposed merger; and

**WHEREAS**, both University presidents presented to the board the various benefits the merger of both universities would have for the Rio Grande Valley, a vote was put to the Board of Regents in which the approval of the merger was passed to create a new university that includes a medical school; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the merger of both Universities, the new University would be eligible to include a medical school in its curriculum, thereby making the university a top-tier place for education in the Rio Grande Valley. The new University would also serve as a bridge between Texas and the United States with Mexico and Latin America; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the approval of the merger by the University of Texas Board of Regents for the merger, the proposal still requires approval by the Texas legislature; a bill will be submitted and Texas Lawmakers will meet in January 2013 in Austin for its legislation from a bill to law.

**Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED** that the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court hereby recognizes and supports the merger of the University of Texas Brownsville and University of Texas Pan American for the creation of a new University to include a medical school that will no doubt benefit Hidalgo and surrounding counties for generations to come.

Approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day December, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
RAMON GARCIA  
County Judge

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOEL QUINTANILLA  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
HECTOR "TITO" PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOE M. FLORES  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOSEPH PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.  
County Clerk

National Headquarters  
8415 Datapoint Drive, Suite 400  
San Antonio, Texas 78229  
210-692-3805 (voice) 210-692-0823 (fax)  
www.hacu.net



**HACU**  
H I S P A N I C  
A S S O C I A T I O N  
O F C O L L E G E S &  
U N I V E R S I T I E S

January 28, 2013

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Perry:

On behalf of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), I am writing to urge your strong support of the proposed merger of the existing University of Texas at Brownsville and the University of Texas-Pan American into a new University of Texas institution in South Texas, which would also include a new school of medicine. HACU represents more than 400 colleges and universities, including 69 in Texas.

As you know, the Rio Grande Valley of this state is continuing to experience rapid population and economic growth even as higher educational opportunities have lagged. A merger of the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses would leverage the strengths of both, eliminate unnecessary duplications, and better meet the needs of all the residents of the region. The new University has the potential to become a major research institution and a driver of economic development and innovation in South Texas.

Moreover, the creation of a full-fledged medical school in the Valley is an urgent need. The health care needs of this region are dramatically underserved, with only 124 doctors for every 100,000 residents, far behind the state average of 165 doctors and little more than half the national average of 240 doctors per 100,000 residents. The existing UTHSC-San Antonio's Regional Academic Health Center already provides a solid foundation for the beginnings of the new medical school.

The work of the University of Texas System in preparing this proposal amply documents the economies of scale that will be realized by this merger and the educational and economic stimulus the new institution would provide to the region and to the State.

Your strong support for this proposal is critical to meeting the 21<sup>st</sup> century educational, medical and economic needs of this region and of the state of Texas. As the demography of Texas becomes increasingly Hispanic, more adequately addressing the educational needs of Hispanic students and of the Rio Grande Valley is vital to assuring the future of the state.

Sincerely,



Antonio R. Flores  
President and CEO

Cc: State Senator Juan Hinojosa  
State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BOARD OF REGENTS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A VALLEY-WIDE EMERGING RESEARCH FACILITY AND MEDICAL SCHOOL**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the McAllen Independent School District:

**WHEREAS**, on December 6, 2012, The Chancellor of the University of Texas, Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa proposed an initiative to the University of Texas System Board of Regents ("Board of Regents") to establish a new university that includes the University of Texas at Brownsville, the University of Texas Pan American and the future South Texas School of Medicine;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Regents unanimously approved this initiative which would result in a single institution that spans the entire Rio Grande Valley, with a presence in each of the major metropolitan areas of Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen and McAllen;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Regents also approved the allocation of \$100 million over next 10 years to accelerate the pace of transitioning the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen to a school of medicine;

**WHEREAS**, if approved by the Texas Legislature it would make this new institution eligible for revenue from Permanent University Fund (PUF) a major catalyst for building a world class research facility of higher learning complemented with a school of medicine for the entire Rio Grande Valley;

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that this initiative would spur economic growth and create over 10,000 jobs initially and promote growth in high education opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, the McAllen Independent School District identifies this as one of the largest educational and economic development opportunities for the Rio Grande Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, McAllen Independent School District wants to thank the Chancellor and the Board of Regents for their work to transform the educational landscape of the Rio Grande Valley and allow future generations an opportunity to succeed in the growing medical profession.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of McAllen Independent School District supports the efforts of the University Texas Board of Regents to establish a valley-wide research facility and medical school.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Trustees of the McAllen Independent School District this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

ATTEST

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Crane Aliseda Secretary, Board of  
Trustees McAllen Independent School District

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hilda Garza De-Shazo, President Board of  
Trustees McAllen Independent School  
District

## RESOLUTION

Whereas, The Board of Regents of The University of Texas System has taken a bold step for the future of higher education in Texas by proposing the creation of a new university with campuses spanning the Rio Grande Valley that will combine U.T. Brownsville, U.T. Pan American, and a future medical school; and

Whereas, higher education investments for South Texas have not been at equal levels historically as other parts of the State of Texas; and

Whereas, the proposed South Texas Plan would not require additional funding nor take away from the other University of Texas System institutions; and

Whereas, with a combined student population estimated at 28,000 students the new university will be one of the largest designated Hispanic-serving institutions in the nation and, with initial annual research expenditures of \$11 million, the new university provides the foundation for an emerging research university and, ultimately, the first Tier One university in South Texas; and

Whereas, in such close proximity to The University of Texas at San Antonio, with an enrollment of 30,474 and a 45% Hispanic population, as well as, a designated Tier-One emerging research university, and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, which is recognized among the Top Public Research Universities, the new university and its future medical school will bring to a broad region of South Texas a synergy in education, research, and the ensuing economic development for which higher education is an unparalleled engine making it the San Antonio/South Texas connection to Bioscience Healthcare Education Partnership; and

Whereas, the new university will have dramatic economic impact in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, including providing 7,000 to 10,000 jobs, while fostering the educational and knowledge base essential to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy; and

Whereas, if approved by two-thirds of the membership of the Legislature, the new university will be the first Valley institution eligible to participate in the Permanent University Fund, an endowment that has fostered development of the other institutions within The University of Texas System; and

Whereas, The Board of Regents, having previously invested millions of dollars in support of medical education and services in South Texas has also committed \$100 million over the next 10 years to accelerate the pace of transitioning the Regional Academic Health Center into the new medical school; and

Whereas, the development of the new medical school will not only provide critically needed research and health care benefitting the growing South Texas population, but also complement developments in San Antonio such as the new children's hospital in San Antonio;

Whereas, what benefits this important, fast-growing region of Texas benefits the economic vitality of the entire State of Texas; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, that the chamber hereby expresses its support for the creation of the new University of Texas System institution of the first class in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; and, be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the members of the legislature representing the areas covered by this chamber as an expression of support for this important proposal and an encouragement of

enactment of legislation authorizing The University of Texas System to establish and maintain such an institution.

**For our 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Agenda:**

The Hispanic Chamber also fully endorses Alamo Community Colleges, Texas A&M San Antonio's, The University of Texas at San Antonio, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, The University of Texas System, as well as the private universities including St. Mary's, Trinity, Our Lady of the Lake Universities and University of the Incarnate Word's legislative agendas.

**For The University of Texas System**

- Encourage the enactment of legislation authorizing The University of Texas System to create a new university with campuses spanning the Rio Grande Valley that includes The University of Texas at Brownsville, The University of Texas - Pan American, and a future medical school
- The proposed South Texas Plan would not affect current legislative funding or requests for additional funding of the other University of Texas System institutions
- This action supports increased Higher Education in South Texas investments that include The University of Texas at San Antonio's Tier-One academic research goals.



TEXAS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
BUSINESS

PRO-BUSINESS · PRO-TEXAS  
FOR OVER 85 YEARS

February 4, 2013

The Honorable Francisco Cigarroa, M.D.  
Chancellor, The University of Texas System  
601 Colorado Street  
Fourth Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chancellor Cigarroa,

I hope that this letter finds you well. On behalf the Texas Association of Business (TAB) and its 3000-plus business members and chambers across the state, we would like to thank you for your dedication and hard work on public policy issues that greatly affect our entire state, especially in regards to educating our students. It is our sincere belief that your dedication is unmatched.

On behalf of our members, we support your efforts to work with the Texas Legislature to establish a new university that includes merging the University of Texas at Brownsville and the University of Texas-Pan American. We are excited for the savings to the state that the merger will provide, as well as the potential for the economic development opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley.

I believe that focusing on the merger of these two schools will undoubtedly open the door to providing higher education and training for generations to come, and I greatly commend your efforts to take the lead on such an important measure that will certainly make our great state even better.

Thank you for all that you do. If I or my staff can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 512.637.7701.

Sincerely,



Bill Hammond  
President

Cc: Carl Mica



February 8, 2013

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Office of the Governor  
State of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

#### OFFICERS

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Chairman of the Board

Ignacio Veloz  
Chairman-Elect

Raymond Arroyo  
Secretary

Javier Palomarez  
President & CEO

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ruben Taborda  
Roger Marrero  
Peter Villegas\*

##### Members-At-Large

Maria Martinez\*  
Cesar Melgoza\*

\* Denotes Regional Chairman or  
Executive Committee Member

Dear Governor Perry,

On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), the country's largest Hispanic business organization, I am writing to urge your strong support of the proposed creation of a new university in south Texas, combining the existing University of Texas - Brownsville and the University of Texas-Pan American campuses, along with the medical school authorized by the legislature in 2009. The USHCC, which represents over 200 local chambers of commerce and the interests of over 3 million Hispanic owned businesses that contribute in excess of \$465 billion to the American economy each year, enthusiastically supports this proposal.

As you know, the Rio Grande Valley population continues to grow, and the need for better access to educational resources has never been greater. Combining the Brownsville and Edinburg campuses into one new university would leverage the strengths of both, eliminate unnecessary duplications, and better meet the needs of the region. The new university has the potential to become a major research institution and a driver of economic development and innovation in south Texas.

Moreover, beginning operations of the south Texas medical school is imperative. The health care needs of this region are dramatically underserved, with only 124 doctors for every 100,000 residents, far behind the state average of 165 doctors and little more than half the national average of 240 doctors per 100,000 residents. The existing UTHSC-San Antonio's Regional Academic Health Center already provides a solid foundation for the beginnings of the new medical school. The new school would have access to additional medical residency slots with partnering local hospitals throughout the region. This will help to ensure more doctors remain in the area after they've completed their medical education and help eliminate the shortage of doctors in South Texas.

Under the visionary leadership of Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, a friend of the USHCC and strong ally of the Hispanic business community, the proposal offered by the University of Texas System to the legislature amply documents the educational and economic benefits the new institution would provide to the region and to the State – home to a large portion of Hispanic entrepreneurs, the fastest growing segment of American enterprise.

Additionally, the severe disparities facing the Hispanic populations in the Rio Grande Valley have been of national concern for many years. With the creation of this new university and medical school, you have the ability to address workforce readiness issues that have faced the region for generations. At the USHCC, we have seen what kind of success can be created when Hispanic entrepreneurs are given the ability to meet their potential through the benefits of education, and we are confident this new institution will substantially alter the trajectory of the region by harnessing the energies and talents of a population eager to contribute to the community in meaningful ways.



Your strong support for this proposal is critical to meeting the 21<sup>st</sup> century educational, medical and economic challenges of this region and of the State of Texas. As the demography of Texas becomes increasingly Hispanic, addressing the educational needs of Hispanic students and the educational and healthcare needs of the Rio Grande Valley is vital to assuring a prosperous Texas economy.

Finally, I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts to support the Hispanic business community throughout Texas. Both our current Chairman, Marc Rodriguez, and our Chairman Emeritus, Nina Vaca, often speak about your ongoing work to make Texas the country's most business friendly state. The astonishing rate of business growth in the state proves the efficacy of your efforts. I also want to thank you again for joining the USHCC at some of our recent events, and I hope you know you are always welcome to join us for any of our engagements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Javier Palomarez  
President & CEO  
USHCC

**The University of Texas at Brownsville  
Faculty Senate**

**RESOLUTION**

Whereas, The University of Texas Board of Regents unanimously approved an initiative to authorize Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa to work with the Texas Legislature to establish a new university that includes the University of Texas at Brownsville, the University of Texas-Pan American and the future South Texas School of Medicine;

Whereas, this new university will be eligible for revenue from the Permanent University Fund, a major catalyst for building a world-class research university;

Whereas, the new institution would also be eligible for more funding sources such as the National Research University Fund, the Texas Research Incentive Plan and matching UT System funds;

Whereas, the new university will be an emerging research university;

Therefore, be it resolved that the faculty of the University of Texas at Brownsville support the creation of a new University of Texas in the Rio Grande Valley with campuses in Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, and McAllen.

Submitted by:

Elizabeth Heise, President Faculty Senate

Date: January 18, 2013

Approved by Faculty Senate - Unanimously Date: January 18, 2013

**Staff Senate of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College**

*Date: January 24, 2013*

*Title: Resolution 1, Establishing a New University*

*Sponsor: Valerie Gamez*

*Co-Sponsor: Olga Garcia*

**THE STAFF SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE AND TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:**

**Whereas:** The University of Texas Board of Regents unanimously approved an initiative to authorize Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa to work with the Texas Legislature to establish a new university that includes the University of Texas at Brownsville, the University of Texas-Pan American and the future South Texas School of Medicine;

**Whereas:** this new university will be eligible for revenue from the Permanent University Fund, a major catalyst for building a world-class research university;

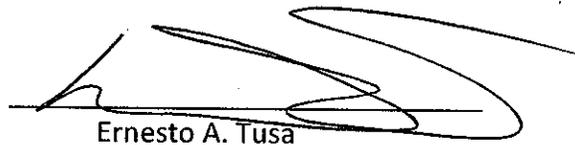
**Whereas:** the new institution would also be eligible for more funding sources such as the National Research University Fund, the Texas Research Incentive Plan and matching UT System funds;

**Whereas:** the new university will be an emerging research university;

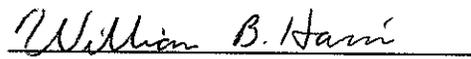
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Staff Senate of the University of Texas at Brownsville supports the creation of a new University of Texas in the Rio Grande Valley with campuses in Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, and McAllen.

***Signatures:***

President of Staff Senate

  
Ernesto A. Tusa

Vice President of the Staff Senate

  
William B. Harris

Copies to: UTB/TSC Staff Senate Liaison, Dr. Ruth Ragland

## **Resolution Supporting the “New” University for the Valley**

PARA members voted to draft a resolution to support the efforts of The University of Texas System to create a new university for the Rio Grande Valley that would unify The University of Texas-Pan American, The University of Texas at Brownsville, and the Regional Academic Health Center (the basis for a new medical school) into a single institution that would have access to the Permanent University Fund, be the second largest Hispanic-serving institution in the country, provide more and higher educational opportunities for the people of the Rio Grande Valley, create more jobs along the border, capitalize upon its location along the border through bicultural and biliterate education and research, and become an emerging research institution with a medical school. There were no dissenting votes. The members charged the PARA leadership to develop wording for this resolution. Here is the wording adopted for this resolution:

### **The University of Texas –Pan American Retirees Association**

Whereas, The University of Texas Board of Regents unanimously approved an initiative to authorize Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa to work with the Texas Legislature to establish a new university that includes the University of Texas-Pan American, the University of Texas-Brownsville, and a medical school to be located in the Rio Grande Valley;

Whereas approval will unite the entities into one regional emerging research university;

Whereas this unified university will be the second largest Hispanic institution in the nation;

Whereas the new university will capitalize on its location along the border and will enhance bicultural and biliterate education for this rapidly growing population;

Whereas, this new university may become eligible for revenue from the Permanent University Fund, a major catalyst for building a world-class research university;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Pan American Retirees Association (PARA) supports the creation of a new University in the Rio Grande Valley with a presence in Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, McAllen, and Rio Grande City.

Submitted by:

Edwin LeMaster, Chair  
Date: January 16, 2013

This resolution will be presented to the administration of the University, to the University of Texas System, and to the members of the Texas Legislature.



LEGISLATIVE COVER PAGE

Title: **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A NEW UT UNIVERSITY IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY**

*To be filled by the Chair of the Senate only*

Legislative title and number:

Referred to:

Deliberation Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

In Favor: \_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_\_

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_

*To be filled by the President*

Presidential Action<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

*To be filled by the Chair of the Senate only*

Veto Override<sup>2</sup>

In Favor: \_\_\_\_ Opposed: \_\_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_\_

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

1 “If no action has been taken by the president within ten (10) class days after his or her notification that the legislation was approved by the Student Senate, the legislation shall become statutory enactment without his or her signature.” [SGA Bylaws, II. Executive Bylaws 1.4]

2 “If the President vetoes the legislation, he or she shall return the legislation to the Vice President to be placed on the next Student Senate agenda. The President shall provide written objections with shall be entered in the Student Senate Journal. The student Senate may then proceed to reconsider the legislation. If after such reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3) of the Student Senators present and voting shall vote in favor of overriding the President’s veto, then the legislation shall become a statutory enactment without his or her signature.” [SGA Bylaws, II. Executive Bylaws 1.3]

