

**Texas A&M University**  
**Graduate and Professional Student Council**  
**General Assembly**  
**2015-2016 Session**

**A Resolution Opposing U.S. House Resolution 3403**

*Presented by Allyson Bell & Marisa Biondi on December 1, 2015*

- Whereas:** The Graduate and Professional Student Council exists to govern and to serve as the voice of all graduate and professional students at Texas A&M University.
- Whereas:** Texas A&M University has focused on decreasing incidences of campus sexual assault and harassment through the “Step in. Stand Up.” campaign, the Texas A&M CLEAR Office, and increasing awareness of campus resources to support students.
- Whereas:** Texas A&M University has defined student rules, student conduct code, and student conduct conference proceedings that outline the institutional disciplinary procedure in Texas A&M University Student Rules 24-27.
- Whereas:** U.S. House Resolution 3403 redefines when University investigations can occur, sanctions possible, and to override the University disciplinary process.
- Whereas:** As is outlined in Texas A&M University Student Rule 24.6, the current University process allows for both the University and local police departments to work concurrently, if the complainant chooses.
- Whereas:** Texas A&M University Student Rule 26 does not require the complainant or accused to be present for the student conduct conference and does not allow any direct questioning to occur to protect both parties.
- Whereas:** U.S. H.R. 3403, Sec. 163 would inhibit the University from conducting concurrent investigations with the local police departments, and could significantly delay actions the University can take to administer due process to its students.
- Whereas:** U.S. H.R. 3403, Sec. 163 could effectively decrease reporting at Texas A&M due to the fact complainants will have to specifically sign that they do not want their case reported to local police departments.

- Whereas: The changes to the reporting process could discourage students from reporting to the University or seeking University assistance, since the process outlined in U.S. H.R. 3403 would effectively require students to make an active decision regarding police action before any assistance can begin.
- Whereas: U.S. H.R. 3403, Sec. 163 limits the actions the University can take to ensure both parties are protected and safe during the police investigation to time-limited, interim sanctions.
- Whereas: U.S. H.R. 3403, Sec. 164 would override the University disciplinary process by lengthening the time a hearing could be held, from at least three days notice to two weeks notice, including a one week notice of access to evidence.
- Whereas: U.S. H.R. 3403, Sec. 164 allowance of the accused to directly question the complainant, through verbal or written means, could cause or exacerbate trauma from the incident, and could further provide an opportunity for harassment.
- And  
Whereas: U.S. H.R. 3403 intends to define the University's jurisdiction on sexual assault and harassment cases and to ensure both parties receive due process; however, given Texas A&M University's proactive approach to judicious disciplinary review process and concurrent investigation with local police departments, U.S. H.R. 3403 will decrease the University's ability to provide an expedient student conduct conference and due process to both parties.
- Let it be  
Resolved: The Texas A&M University Graduate & Professional Student Council strongly opposes U.S. House Resolution 3403 and equivalent measures, and will discuss and request the Student Advocates for Graduate Education stand against H.R. 3403 at the Spring 2016 Day on the Hill.
- Let it be  
Further  
Resolved: A copy of this resolution shall be posted and delivered to:  
 Congressman Matt Salmon  
*Bill Author; Arizona U.S. Representative for District 5*  
 Congressman Pete Sessions  
*Cosponsor; Texas U.S. Representative for District 32*  
 Congressman Bill Flores  
*Texas U.S. Representative for Congressional District 17*  
 President Michael K. Young  
*President, Texas A&M University*  
 Michael G. O'Quinn  
*Vice President for Government Relations, Texas A&M University*  
 Dr. Daniel J. Pugh, Sr., Ph.D.  
*Vice President for Student Affairs, Texas A&M University*  
 Dr. David W. Parrott, Ph.D.  
*Executive Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Texas A&M University*  
 Dr. C. J. Woods, Ph.D.

*Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Texas A&M University*

**Dr. Anne Reber, Ph.D.**

*Dean of Student Life, Texas A&M University*

**Kristen Harrell**

*Associate Director, Offices of the Dean of Student Life, Texas A&M University*

**Marisa Biondi**

*President of the Graduate and Professional Student Council*

**Audrey Lallier**

*Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council*

**Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE)**

**Action Taken:** 12/11/2015

**Certified By:** 

**Koen Höcker**

*Executive Vice President*

**Date:** 12/8/2015

**Duly Approved By:** 

**Paul Taelle**

*Vice President of Information*