Faculty Council Resolution on Principles Regarding
UT Austin's Technology-Enhanced Education: Critical Needs and Solutions

C14 Technology-Enhanced Education Oversight Committee

WHEREAS to provide superior and comprehensive educational opportunities at all levels, the University of Texas at Austin requires strong, proactive, visionary leadership, knowledgeable educational technology staff, and a coordinated infrastructure for managing educational technology,

WHEREAS educational technology includes all technologies used in support of teaching and learning,

WHEREAS the pandemic has made educational technology a critical component of the university's educational mission and highlighted the rapidly increasing need for proactive decision-making and coordination across the university,

WHEREAS UT strives to maintain a competitive advantage over peer institutions through the use of innovative educational technologies, a robust collection of software and support services, and strong learning analytics to support students,

WHEREAS educational technology depends upon information technology campus infrastructure and support for campus-wide tools and services for the efficient procurement and effective implementation of components and services,

WHEREAS a recent information technology audit (June 2020) found that UT Austin lacks a campus-wide technology strategy and governance structure,

WHEREAS a lack of a campus-wide educational technology strategy and coordination has led to inconsistent learning experiences for students, decreased instructional effectiveness, reduced faculty productivity, misinformation and inefficiencies, higher student institutional costs, and university exposure to legal, financial, data privacy, security, and accessibility risks,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Faculty Council calls on the President's and Provost's Office to establish a campus-wide governance structure for information technology that recognizes *educational technology* as a discreet area within the broader ecosystem and provides resources to facilitate knowledgeable, proactive, leadership and specialized support models. This includes:

1. ***Leadership specific to educational technology*** *- Creating a campus-wide leadership role specific to educational technology to be filled by someone who can create, articulate, coordinate, guide, and implement campus efforts, and cultivate all required elements to maintain an educational technology ecosystem that supports and is aligned with UT's instructional goals. (Peer institutions employ a Chief Academic Technology Officer or Director of Educational Technology. This role often reports to the CIO with strong connections to both the President's and Provost's Office.)*

2. ***Campus-wide educational technology support*** - *Establishing or identifying an Educational Technology Unit that leverages existing technology infrastructure and parallels the centralized support provided for information technology. This unit would provide unique services such as the implementation of a strategic vision, vetting educational tools, vendor relationship management, and monitoring the educational technology ecosystem.*

3. ***Collaboration -*** *Developing a framework to facilitate collaboration between the Educational Technology Unit and campus stakeholders including college-based units, Information Technology Services (service management), Business Contracts and Legal (licensing), Services for Students with Disabilities/ADA (accessibility), Faculty Innovation Center (instructor professional development), Libraries (digital literacy and instructional resources), Information Security Office (privacy and data security), and expert technology and instructional support staff in colleges, schools, and units.*

4. ***Educational Technology Advisory Board*** - *Forming an educational technology advisory board of campus experts that provide shared governance for the service unit and facilitates robust dialogue around strategy, policy, communication, and implementation across the university. This group would mirror the current IT governance structure of the Information Technology Leadership Council (ITLC) and the Business Administrative Information Technology Leadership Council (BAITLC). This group would work with the C-13 (informational technology) & C-14 (educational technology) Faculty Council standing committees.*

5. ***Ongoing Program for Critical Digital Literacy -*** *Creating an ongoing program for educating faculty, students, and staff on creative possibilities to enhance teaching and learning, with a special focus on understanding how technologies, and the activities they leverage, may further entrench or ameliorate systemic social inequalities and inequities. This includes an awareness of safe, legal, and ethical practices, the protection of intellectual rights and property, the communication of best pedagogical practices, and an understanding of how to use available resources in equitable ways in our communities.*