STUDENT SENATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

TITLE: ASL for CASA

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Whereas: Student Senate is elected by the student body to represent and voice the opinions of students; and

Whereas: Student Senate is a means by which students’ concerns are addressed; and

Whereas: Baylor University only offers seven courses of American Sign Language (ASL) for those in the Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences; and

Whereas: Six of the seven ASL courses require one or more pre-requisites, thus further limiting the amount of ASL courses students can take during their time at Baylor University; and

Whereas: The College of Arts and Sciences recently adopted a new core curriculum, requiring only 9 hours of foreign language credit instead of 12 hours; and

Whereas: The College of Arts and Sciences does not recognize American Sign Language (ASL) credits towards the foreign language requirement; and

Whereas: American Sign Language (ASL) is its own distinct language that has its own grammar, syntax, and sentence structures; and

Whereas: There is a distinctive community for deaf persons, that of which American Sign Language (ASL) is the primary language; and

Whereas: The state of Texas recognizes American Sign Language (ASL) as a legitimate foreign language; and

Whereas: Waco has one of the largest deaf populations in the state of Texas; and
Whereas: The students of Baylor University have consistently expressed interest in taking American Sign Language (ASL) as a foreign language; and

Whereas: These students are limited in their educational pursuits by the decisions of Baylor University; and

Whereas: Many schools, such as Abilene Christian University, Oklahoma State University, Texas A&M University, Texas State University, Texas Tech University, University of Kansas, University of Texas, Vanderbilt University, West Virginia University, and Yale University, offer and accept ASL as a foreign language credit; and

Therefore: Be it resolved by the 67th Legislative Session of the Baylor University Student Senate assembled that the College of Arts and Sciences at Baylor University allow these students to satisfy their foreign language credit by taking American Sign Language (ASL) courses; and

Furthermore: A copy of this resolution will be sent to Dr. Lee Nordt, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Frieda Blackwell, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Interim Associate Chair of Modern Languages and Cultures; Lynnette Geary, Assistant to the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences; Carol McCulloch, Undergraduate Studies Office Coordinator; Dr. Matt Burchett, Director of Student Activities; and Dr. Kevin P. Jackson, Vice President for Student Life.