S2022-R3- Juneteenth Day of Rest

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 2, Subsection E of the SGA Constitution reads “Above all, the Student Government Association shall ensure that the voice of the Students Body is always heard at the University of North Texas.”

WHEREAS, The Black community at UNT makes up 13.8% of the student population.

WHEREAS, On June 17th, 2021 the “Juneteenth National Independence Day Act” was signed by President Biden, therefore, acknowledging June 19th as a Federal Holiday.

WHEREAS, On January 1st, 1980, Juneteenth officially became a Texas state holiday and has since been celebrated as such.

WHEREAS, The Vision statement of UNT’s Diversity and Inclusion office states it will support “efforts that foster an environment that [affirms] all identities and provide opportunities for personal growth through partnership with campus and community organizations.”

WHEREAS, President Neal Smatresk delivered an Official Notice also urging that we all take time to “reflect on the heritage of Black Americans and consider what [we] can do to foster a legacy of inclusion for all Black lives.

WHEREAS, The holiday has been approved by the Board of Regents and will be annually recognized beginning in 2024.

WHEREAS, Many students already recognize June 19th as a historical day for liberation.

WHEREAS, Students taking summer classes should receive the opportunity to celebrate this holiday without the stress of academic or campus responsibilities.

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, For Summer terms 2022 and 2023, the President shall close the University on Juneteenth.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Professors will not assign June 19th as the due date for any course-related submissions in respect of the holiday.
LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT This legislation be sent to the following individuals and organizations

1. UNT President Neal Smatresk
2. Vice President of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Joanne Woodard

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Aalyhia Shillow  
College of Education

Jermaine Turner  
President of the Black Student Union

Dasia Smith  
President of the National Association for the advancement of Colored People

Shabaz Brown  
Assistant Director at UNT’s Multicultural Center

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Student Government Association has approved this document and is referred to the office of the President.

[Signature]
Speaker of the Senate  
[Date]

Presidential Action:
- [ ] Vetoed  
- [X] Approved

[Signature]
President of the Student Government Association  
[Date]

[Signature]
Vice President of Student Affairs  
[Date]