WHEREAS, A 2016 report on youth drug use from the Texas Department of State Health Services found that alcohol remains the most commonly consumed substance among Texas students, with 52 percent reporting lifetime use and 28 percent admitting to use in the last month.

WHEREAS the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, researchers estimates that every year in the United States:

- An estimated 88,000 people (approximately 62,000 men and 26,000 women) die from alcohol-related causes, making alcohol the third leading preventable cause of death in the nation.
- 1,825 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor-vehicle crashes.
- 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking.
- 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 report experiencing alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape.
- Roughly 20 percent of college students meet the criteria for alcohol use disorder (AUD).
- About 1 in 4 college students report academic consequences from drinking, including missing class, falling behind in class, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall.

WHEREAS the highly prestigious peer-reviewed medical journal, The Lancet, published a report in 2010 that placed alcohol as the most harmful substance, especially when “harm” is defined as likelihood to cause harm to others.

WHEREAS, on top of the punitive and racially discriminatory penalties already administered by the criminal justice system, UNT administration imposes loss of on-campus residency, expulsion from dining halls, and a large fine for first-time substance possession offenses while making an exception for marijuana and alcohol despite alcohol’s danger and marijuana’s illegal status in Texas.
LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the UNT SGA recommends that the UNT administration adopt fair disciplinary practices by not imposing loss of on campus residency, suspension and/or expulsion on students for first time drug possession offenses,

RESOLVED THAT, the UNT SGA recommends that all students referred to UNT with a first-time drug possession offense be referred to educational and/or rehabilitation services, and that UNT work diligently to inform students that illegal substance use is still subject to penalties within the criminal justice system.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the UNT SGA supports efforts by the UNT administration to provide statistics regarding university-imposed penalties for drug policy violations, differentiated by demographics such as race and gender for the purpose of accountability. These statistics should be made available to all students within the student body at the end of every academic year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Shane Warren College of
Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Tristan Seikal UNT Student and President of Students for
Sensible Drug Policy

Devon Skinner
SGA Intern

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.

Speaker of the Senate

Date 04/01/2019
Now that you have a Resolution, here are the next steps you need to take:

1. Submit your legislation to the Speaker of the Senate no later than midnight the Sunday before the Senate Session that you want it to be read. 2. As soon as you submit it, you (the author) and any who accompanied you through your process (co-authors) are responsible for the spread of information. 3. The resolution will be read aloud in its entirety. 4. Your resolution may be referred to a standing committee, if this does not happen skip to step 5.

   a. If your resolution is referred to a committee, you will all work on revising your resolution.

   b. The committee may amend your resolution with a 2/3 vote. c. The Student Standing Committee may refer your resolution favorably or unfavorably to the Senate; however, if you believe your resolution has lost its integrity you may do the same. d. Next, after all the revising, the standing committee may bring your resolution to the senate or unanimously decide to kill your legislation. 5. Finally, your resolution will go to the senate for the second reading, a presentation from the author(s) ((you)) and a period of discussion. Then your resolution will be passed, amended, or denied.