The Student Senate
Texas A&M University

S.B. 65-53

The Student Senate
65th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Academic Affairs Chair Tyler Mandry, Engineering
Keith Pattison
Senator Rachel Smith, Agriculture and Life Sciences
Senator Rebecca McCreary, Geosciences

Action Taken
PASSED by unanimous voice vote
3/6/13

Certified By: Scott A. Bowen
President of the Senate

Duly Approved: John L. Claybrook
Student Body President

The Go Google Bill

"A bill expressing the need for more user-friendly, modern IT services that save the University money."

Whereas(1): Texas A&M University is a public institution, and as such, has an obligation to spend taxpayers' and students' money as efficiently and effectively as possible; and,

Whereas(2): The Student Government Association is the official voice of the Texas A&M student body; and,

Whereas(3): The university currently uses Zimbra for student e-mail; and,

Whereas(4): The Zimbra interface is neither familiar nor enjoyable to use for most students; and,

Whereas(5): Texas A&M University currently spends money in hosting and maintaining this e-mail system; and,

Whereas(6): Students currently have no solution to managing documents and other files they use for courses and easily synchronizing them between campus and their personal computers, or for sharing calendars; and,
Whereas(7): Google offers an online service, Google Apps for Education, that offers all of the above services and more with 99.9% guaranteed uptime and is completely free for the university\(^1\); and,

Whereas(8): Seventy-two (72) percent of this year’s top 100 U.S. Universities (as determined by the 2013 U.S. News and World Report ranking) have switched to using Google Apps for Education, including seven of the country’s eight ivy league universities\(^2\); and,

Whereas(9): The University of Texas switched last year to Google Apps for Education after its students expressed dissatisfaction with their e-mail service, and was able to offer 42 times the space it had previously provided to its students, along with providing permanent e-mail accounts to all of its alumni\(^3\); and,

Whereas(10): Vanderbilt University switched to Google Apps for Education in 2010, and with 11,800 students, cited a cost savings of more than $750,000 on only storage, not including server expenses that were saved\(^4\); and,

Whereas(11): The University of Notre Dame, which consists of 12,000 students, saved $1.5 million, increased student satisfaction by 36%, and reduced help desk questions by 20% by switching to Google Apps for Education\(^5\); and,

Whereas(12): University- or system-wide adoption of Google Apps for faculty, students, and staff would streamline collaboration within and among all parties; and,

Whereas(13): Adopting Google Apps for Education for e-mail and other services would save the university money while providing more, easier-to-use services to students who pay to come to the university; and,


Whereas(14): The use of Google Apps for Education is the most efficient and effective use of taxpayer and student money.

Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(1): That the Texas A&M University student body supports the speedy adoption of Google Apps for Education university-wide; and,

Let it be
Further
Enacted(2): That a copy of this bill shall be sent to
- Dr. Pierce Cantrell, Vice President and Associate Provost for Information Technology
- Mr. Joseph P. Pettibon, II, Associate Vice President for Academic Services
- Dr. Pamela R. Matthews, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Watson, Provost
- Ms. B.J. Crain, Chief Financial Officer
- Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, President
- Mr. John Sharp, Chancellor, Texas A&M University System