

Faculty Senate Resolution on SMU Preschool and Childcare Center

Whereas, the General Faculty of Southern Methodist University is responsible to the Board of Trustees, through the President, for “[t]he professional growth and behavior of the members of the University faculties” (SMU Bylaws, 5.01(a)-(b)), and

Whereas, the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University “possesses and exercises the powers of the General Faculty of the University in all matters that are not reserved by the Bylaws of the University to the faculty of a single school” (Faculty Senate Constitution, Preamble), and

Whereas, the first objective of the 2016-2025 Strategic Plan is to “[s]trengthen the University’s “ability to recruit, appoint, promote, and retain a distinguished, gifted and diverse faculty” (2016-2025 Strategic Plan, Goal One, Objective One), and

Whereas, it is also a principal objective of the 2016-2025 Strategic Plan to “[e]valuate options for providing enhanced child development services for faculty, staff, and students” (2016-2025 Strategic Plan, Goal Four, Objective Eight), and

Whereas, in order “for faculty members with child-rearing responsibilities to participate successfully in teaching, research, and service to their institution, they must have access to quality child-care facilities” (AAUP Statement on Faculty Child Care, June 1989), and

Whereas, on-site child care is a standard benefit at nearly all of SMU’s aspirational peer institutions, including Boston College, Brandeis University, Carnegie Mellon University, Lehigh University, the University of Southern California, the University of Rochester, Tulane University, and Vanderbilt University (Appendix A), and

Whereas, the President’s Commission on the Status of Women has repeatedly identified on-site child care as a priority for recruitment and retention of high-quality faculty, staff, and students, especially women, and

Whereas, for nearly four decades, the SMU Preschool and Child Care Center has provided high-quality child care for SMU faculty, staff, and students, and

Whereas, since May 14, 2015, the SMU Preschool and Child Care Center has not had a full-time director, and

Whereas, the future status of the SMU Preschool and Child Care Center is uncertain, and

Whereas, parents of SMU Preschool and Child Care Center children have planned on the good faith assumption that SMU provides and will continue to provide high-quality on-site child care, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University:

- (A) expresses its strong support and concern for the teachers, parents, and children of the SMU Preschool and Child Care Center, and
- (B) calls upon the SMU Administration to proceed quickly to
 - a. hire a full-time director for the SMU Preschool and Child Care Center, and
 - b. ensure that SMU continues to provide high-quality, on-site child care for the University community without interruption.

APPENDIX A

On-Site Child Care at Aspirational Peer Universities

Boston College:

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/hr/employees/all-cc-docs.html>

Brandeis University:

<http://www.brandeis.edu/lemborg/>

Carnegie Mellon University:

<http://www.cmu.edu/cyert-center/>

Lehigh University:

<http://financeadmin.lehigh.edu/childcare>

University of Southern California:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/hr/childcare/>

University of Rochester:

<http://www.cclc.com/our-centers/rochester/ny/301671/>

Tulane University:

<https://tulane.edu/tulane/about/maps/newcomb-child-care-center.cfm>

Vanderbilt University:

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/child-family-center/child-care-center/>