



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
Senate Resolution 25.17

(Stating the sentiments of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Student Senate regarding the establishment of a university-wide research program in partnership with The Cooper Institute, recently acquired by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center)

WHEREAS, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) recently completed the acquisition of The Cooper Institute, a leader in preventive medicine, physical fitness research, epidemiology, and population health, thereby expanding TTUHSC's capacity in scientific discovery, innovation, and community health advancement, epidemiology, and population health; and,

WHEREAS, The Cooper Institute has generated foundational research for decades, including landmark studies in preventive cardiology, chronic disease risk reduction, lifestyle medicine, and longitudinal cohort analysis, yielding more than 600 peer-reviewed publications cited worldwide; and,

WHEREAS, the acquisition provides TTUHSC students and faculty access to one of the nation's most robust longitudinal health and fitness datasets, advanced analytic capabilities, and multidisciplinary research expertise; and,

WHEREAS, TTUHSC's six schools: School of Medicine, School of Nursing, School of Health Professions, Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population & Public Health each have unique strengths that align with The Cooper Institute's mission; and,

WHEREAS, the creation of an integrated TTUHSC Cooper Institute Student Research Program would provide structured, high-impact opportunities for student involvement, foster cross-campus collaboration, and strengthen research mentorship pipelines across all six schools; and,

WHEREAS, sustained faculty engagement and mentorship are critical to the success of student research initiatives, and institutional recognition or support of faculty mentors would strengthen program sustainability and scholarly productivity; and,

WHEREAS, establishing faculty-led research tracks, project availability portals through the Office of Research & Innovation, and standardized requirements would further support scholarly productivity, allow students to match with mentors based on interest, and promote transparency and accessibility in research participation; and,

WHEREAS, research projects developed in partnership with The Cooper Institute would enhance TTUHSC's national research profile in partnership with the Office of Research & Innovation, increase grant competitiveness, elevate institutional rankings, and broaden the university's impact in critical fields such as public health, chronic disease prevention, population-level outcomes, and translational science; and,

WHEREAS, this initiative would align with TTUHSC's vision to foster innovation, serve rural communities, expand interprofessional engagement, and prepare future clinicians, scientists, and healthcare leaders through research, academic mentorship, and data-driven inquiry; and therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center formally supports the establishment of the TTUHSC Cooper Institute Integrated Research Program, a unified research initiative accessible to students across all six schools of the Health Sciences Center at all clinical campuses, including distance education programs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate advocates for the creation of a centralized, searchable web portal that indexes available Cooper Institute projects and datasets, allowing students to filter opportunities by specialty and match with faculty mentors; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to ensure the integrity of the research and the academic development of the student body, the Student Senate supports the requirement of 1-2 mandatory certifications and educational modules, through the Cooper Institute, related to statistics and research methodology that students must complete prior to accessing the aforementioned portal and/or datasets; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be sent to **Lori Rice-Spearman Ph.D.**, *President of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center*; **Darrin D'Agostino, D.O., MPH, MBA**, *Provost and Chief Academic Officer for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center*; **Dean John C. DeToledo, M.D.**, *Dean of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine*; **Dean Holly Wei, Ph.D., MBA, R.N., CPN, NEA-BC, FAAN**, *Dean of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing*; **Dean Dawndra Sechrist, OTR, Ph.D.**, *Dean of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Health Professions*; **Dean Gerard E. Carrino, PhD, MPH**, *Dean of Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health*; **Dean Lance McMahan, MS, Ph.D.**, *Interim Dean of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences*; **Dean Grace Kuo Pharm D., MPH, Ph.D., FCCP, FNAP**, *Dean of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy*; **Jacob Lujan**, *Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Toreador*, and to the students of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Author(s):
Tonk, Sahil
Daley, Steven
Pittner, Claire
Anagnostou, Sophia
Del Rea, Leslie
Badejol, Faith
Durfee, Emma
Kaatz, Ty
Quiroga, Issac
Oduwole, Khristal
Sah, Naresh
McWilliams, Ryan
Paul, Anando
Dehghan, Arshama
DeVary, Lauren
Martin, Caleb
Quintanilla, Jake

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
Passed the Senate, 20 January 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sahil Tonk', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CC: Journal

Sahil Tonk
President, Student Government Association