

## **Resolution Supporting Higher Education for the Bahá'ís of Iran**

**WHEREAS** the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M belongs to an intellectual community that encompasses all those pursuing knowledge worldwide, and

**WHEREAS** the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University holds that any attack on academic freedom serves to weaken that pursuit and thus is a threat to all in the community, and

**WHEREAS** the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University holds as a fundamental value that higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit and should not be denied to students on the basis of religious affiliation, as stated in Article 26 of the International Declaration of Human Rights and Article 13 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and

**WHEREAS** the Iranian government through systematic exclusion of young people of the Bahá'í Faith from colleges and universities in Iran since 1980 and through its recent closure of the Bahá'í Institute of Higher Education (BIHE), a grassroots university created for those who have been denied access to higher education, has violated international declarations of human rights and deprived the Bahá'í youth of their legitimate pursuit of knowledge solely on the basis of their religious beliefs,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University condemns the recent shutdown of the Bahá'í Institute of Higher Education by the Iranian government, the simultaneous arrest and conviction of BIHE faculty members and the confiscation and destruction of academic books and educational equipment, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University calls for the reopening of the Bahá'í Institute of Higher Education to allow all citizens the freedom to pursue higher education,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University requests the Provost to consider joining the group of 65 universities outside of Iran who have accepted qualified Bahá'í Institute of Higher Education students wanting to continue their studies,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** these resolutions, if passed by the Senate, be communicated to the Director General of UNESCO and to the Minister of Culture & Higher Education in the Islamic Republic of Iran.