The Student Government of The University of Texas at Dallas
Student Union 2nd Floor, SU 2.401, Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm
972-883-2284 | sg@utdallas.edu

Student Government Resolution 2026-10

In Support of restoring the Pride Wall to the new SSA Atrium

Authors: Green Initiative Committee Chair Colton Rupe, Diversity Equity & Belonging Chair Nivedha Maniv

Sponsors:

Whereas On July 3rd, the "You Belong Here LGBTQ+ Pride Wall" in the SSA Atrium was covered by a temporary white wall without prior notice or explanation[1]; and

Whereas Symbols supporting historically marginalized communities are essential to fostering an environment where all students feel safe and welcome; and

Whereas Removing a key symbol to the LGBTQ+ campus community that contained the words "you belong here" will make members of our LGBTQ+ community feel unwelcome and less safe on campus; and

Whereas Maxwell Reed, a now former UTD student withdrew from the university due to UTD rolling back its support for the LGBTQ+ community including removing the pride wall and mixed gender housing. He feared for his safety at UTD citing the murder of 5 transgender college students in campuses across the US[2]; and

Whereas UTD administration's actions should not make students feel so unsafe that they choose to no longer study at UTD; and

Whereas The display of the Pride Wall is not a training, hiring practice, office, policy, procedure, or activity — and it was installed before the passage of Senate Bill 17 — it falls outside the scope of SB 17. It is not illegal to display a pride flag and the phrase "you belong here."[3]; and

Whereas This decision follows UTD's removal of mixed gender housing. A program that ensured that transgender students could live in accommodations aligned with their gender identity[4]; and

Whereas The removal of mixed gender housing also lacked any form of public statement from UTD administration[4]; and

[1] Retrograde Article
[2] Retrograde Letter to the Editor
[3] Senate Bill 17
[4] SG Resolution 2026-05

Whereas The pride wall's removal marks at least the 2nd time in the past year that UTD has reduced its support for the LGTBQ+ community and failed to consider LGBTQ+ students wellbeing at UTD; and

Whereas UTD is ranked 240 out of 257 universities in the 2026 College Free Speech Rankings create by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) a non-profit dedicated to protecting student expression across college campuses[5]

Whereas UTD has now: (1) removed the Spirit Rocks which provided an outlet for student expression; (2) removed the Pride Wall a mural that expressed support for an often marginalized and targeted group of students; and (3) Fired the editor-in-chief of *the Mercury* in Spring 2024 during its widespread coverage of the campus Palestinian Protests. These protests opposed UT Dallas's investment in companies funding the war in Gaza where over 73,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began[6][7][8]; and

Whereas The removal of the Pride Wall is another example of UTD's track record of suppressing student speech;

Whereas A core objective of higher education is to cultivate a supportive, thriving campus environment that equips students for academic excellence, personal growth, and professional success; and

Whereas The Trevor Projects 2024 study found "LGBTQ+ young people who reported living in very accepting communities attempted suicide at less than half the rate of those who reported living in very unaccepting communities.**Error! Bookmark not defined.**"; and

Whereas Making students feel unsafe and unwelcome is detrimental to the university and its students; and

Affirming LGBTQ+ Students face mental health and other challenges and removing symbols on campus that help them feel more welcomed and safer on campus undermines their ability to succeed in the college environment

[5] UTD FIRE Ranking
[6] Texas Tribune Article – Removal of the Spirit Rocks
[7] SG Resolution 2024-04
[8] PBS Article – Gaza War

Before[9]



After[9]

[9] Dallas Voice Article on the Pride Walls Removal

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Be it resolved that the Student Government Senate of The University of Texas at Dallas demands that UTD administrators issue a formal public explanation regarding the administrative justification and decision-making process behind the covering of the Pride Wall within ten (10) business days of this resolution's passage; and

Be it further resolved UTD administrators must bring back the Pride Wall in its current form. Or they are to create a comparable alternative in the new Student Services Annex Atrium; and

Be it further resolved UTD administrators must commit to consult students on issues that may impact community belonging and be more transparent with the wider campus community on their decisions; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution will be shared with the Office of the President, the Division of Student Affairs, the Presidential Faculty Advisory Council, The Richardson City Council, *The Mercury, The Retrograde*, *The Dallas Morning News, The Dallas Observer, The Texas Tribune, KERA, WFAA;* and other relevant media outlets.

Presiding officers:

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S.R 2026-XX
Introduced [09/01/2026]
[Passed]/[Failed]