

anagha & winston **POLICY** **WHAT IT TAKES. PAPER**

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Longhorn Pride: Spirit Week

Summary

We are going to **implement a spirit week leading up to Texas OU weekend**. This spirit week would include student led events and competitions to engage the student body, promote community involvement, and have an overall theme for the week. Spirit week would bring students together from all areas of campus to celebrate being a Longhorn.

Background

This spirit week will roughly resemble the homecoming weeks of other large football centered Universities. A week filled with fun activities leading up to the game is a great way to involve and excite students. We also understand that TX OU weekend is difficult to navigate, and we want to make it accessible to a larger number of students. Historically, a number of organizations take large amounts of students to the game, while many students not in such groups don't attend. TX OU is our biggest game of the year and we want school spirit to apply to even those who can't make it to the game.

Policy Recommendations

It is our recommendation that we have a formal spirit week to provide an opportunity for all students to get involved in TX OU festivities. The week will have activities Monday through Friday, ending with the game on Saturday. The week will include dress-up days, spirit

competitions between dorms, and various community service events to bring campus together.

At schools like Mizzou, for example, the American Red Cross helps in organizing an annual spirit blood drive¹. Alabama's spirit week has events including a day of service, lawn decoration, and food can donation². Alabama also had a week-long theme, as previously mentioned, which emphasized their university's values and traditions³. Our spirit week would be focused on providing fun and philanthropic events through which students could celebrate the week leading up to TX OU.

Feasibility

Homecoming week festivities are very common among southern universities that are comparable to our size and have dedication to sports and school spirit. Schools that have a spirit/homecoming week include (but are not limited to) Alabama, Clemson, LSU, University of Missouri, University of Florida, and Texas State. We hope that hosting a Spirit Week similar to other schools Homecoming Week will generate a similar amount of enthusiasm and campus unity as it does in other campuses. We also anticipate that UT Athletics would be on board to promote "spirit week," given the other events they organize around home football games.

¹ <https://www.redcrossblood.org/local-homepage/news/article/-lights--camera--take-action--with-the-university-of-missouri-an.html>

² <https://homecoming.sa.ua.edu/about/the-spirit-cup/>

³ <https://homecoming.sa.ua.edu/about/>