

## **School Song Lyric Change Recommendation**

During the Fall 2015 semester the Faculty Senate recommended a resolution initiated by the Department of Psychology to change the word “cheering” in the second line of the last verse of "Alma Mater" to “aiding.”

Dr. Trauth sought input from the following stakeholders on this question: 1) Staff Council 2) Student Government 3) Council of Chairs 4) the Council of Academic Deans and 5) the Alumni Board. Based on the input and recommendations of these groups, President Trauth has concluded that the wording should not be changed. The senate appreciates the consideration of the president and all stakeholders on this issue.



DENISE M. TRAUTH  
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June 1, 2016

Ms. Michel Conroy  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
Texas State University  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Dear Michel:

As you know, during fall semester 2015 the Faculty Senate recommended that a word change be made in the Texas State University Alma Mater.

The proposal requested that the word "cheering" in the phrase "raising the fallen, cheering the oppressed" be changed to the word "aiding." Subsequent to your making of this request, I asked the initiators of this proposal to make presentations and solicit feedback on this request from the Alumni Association, the Staff Council, and the Student Government Association. (Additionally, Dr. Eugene Bourgeois took this matter to the Deans' Council.) All entities took up this request for consultation in different ways and all communicated their recommendation to me in writing. As I deliberated this recommendation from the Faculty Senate, I was very impressed by a passage in the resolution regarding the proposed Alma Mater change that the Student Government Association sent to me. The passage is the following:

- a. "Texas State University students and alumni take great pride in our current traditions and history, and with frequent changes to our university's prideful traditions, the university may alienate members of the alumni network who are crucial to the success of our university."

It is interesting to note that after the students had deliberated, the Alumni Association Board of Directors came to the same conclusion. I think it is fair to say that it was with a great deal of passion that the Alumni Association Board recommended that the university not make the change to the wording of the Alma Mater.

By contrast, the Staff Council passed a motion to approve the Faculty Senate recommended word change, and the Council of Deans agreed with the Faculty Senate and Staff Council. Based on this variety of input and recommendations, I have come to the conclusion that the wording of the Alma Mater should not be changed.

Ms. Michel Conroy

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When we resume the PAAG meetings in the fall, I would be happy to discuss the conclusion that I have reached with you.

Thank you for all that you do for our great university.

Sincerely,



Denise M. Trauth  
President

DMT:jv

xc: Ms. Meghan Parker, Chair, Staff Council

Mr. Andrae Turner, President, Alumni Association

Mr. Andrew Homann, President, Student Government

Dr. Eugene Bourgeois, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs