

Memorandum

December 18, 2020

To: Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs  
Via: Dr. Vincent E. Morton, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students  
From: Kathryn A. Weiser, Assistant Dean of Students *KaW*  
Subject: Student Government Senate Resolution Legislation 2020-2021

Ten pieces of passed 2020-2021 Senate Resolutions from Student Government are attached and listed below.

**S.R.2020-2021.10 Resolution in Support for The Texas State Employees Union's Petition**

This legislation intends to call for Texas State to accept the demands of the TSEU (CWA Local 6186) in full to ensure that Texas State adequately

**S.R.2020-2021.11 Resolution Calling for The Texas State University President to Formally Request That the San Marcos District Attorney Drop All Charges Placed Against the Student Protestors Arrested in May 2018 and 2019**

This legislation calls for University President Trauth, and all other relevant University administrators, to make a public and formal request for the San Marcos District Attorney to drop all outstanding charges placed against the students and release a public apology for the actions of the University in those instances, in an effort allow healing to take place on campus. Please note that the Student Body President did not veto this legislation, but indicated disagreement with it in his cover memo for the piece of legislation.

**S.R.2020-2021.12 Resolution Calling for the Establishment of a Cultural Activities Fee**

This legislation intends to recommend that the University implement a \$5.00 Cultural Activity fee for students enrolled for courses at the San Marcos campus and that students may attend productions and events relating to the fine arts free of charge, and the fee will be overseen by a committee of students and faculty. Please note that the Student Body President did not veto this legislation, but indicated disagreement with it in his cover memo for the piece of legislation.

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

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*This letter is an electronic communication from Texas State University.*

**S.R.2020-2021.13 Resolution Calling for the Theatre Department to Adjust its Curriculum to Better Accommodate Students**

This legislation intends to call for the Theatre Department to adjust courses TH4390 through TH4393 to be less strenuous for students.

**S.R.2020-2021.16 Resolution Calling for the Installation of Artistic Murals**

This legislation intends to recommend the university to commission more artistic work on campus and to commission students to do the artwork.

**S.R.2020-2021.17 Resolution Calling for Updated Calorie and Diet Specific Information in Dining Halls**

This legislation intends to recommend Chartwells provides more updated dietary information to be posted in dining halls.

**S.R.2020-2021.18 Resolution Calling for the Creation of Cultural Diversity Flagged Course in Required Curriculum**

This legislation intends to recommend the University to flag specific types of cultural diversity courses in the student enrollment system and require two flagged courses for graduation.

**S.R.2020-2021.19 Resolution to Leverage Bobcat Trace to Further Mental Health Outreach from the University**

This legislation intends to recommend the University reformat Bobcat Trace to be used as a way for students to assess their mental health state, and potentially get on track to receiving aid streamlining the scheduling process.

**S.R.2020-2021.20 Resolution Calling on Free Masks in Major Student Service Buildings**

This legislation intends to recommend free masks at entrances of student service buildings such as Alkek, LBJSC, and the Student Recreation Center.

**S.R.2020-2021.21 Resolution to Encourage Fee Transparency When Registering for Classes, Through an Online Code Pledge**

This legislation intends to have a pledge that will be sent out to professors so they can choose to sign it or not, in an effort to be more transparent about course fees.



Memorandum

To: Dr. Vincent Morton Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Kathryn A. Weiser, Assistant Dean of Students

Date: December 17, 2020

From: Catching Valentinis-Dee, Student Body President

Subject: Student Government Passed Legislation: Senate Resolutions

With the intention of honoring the senate's role as a representative body, no resolution passed by the senate during the year 2020 was vetoed. However, I hold my strongest reservations about two particular pieces. I request that my reservations be attached to these selected pieces.

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.11 Resolution Calling for The Texas State University President to Formally Request That the San Marcos District Attorney Drop All Charges Placed Against the Student Protestors Arrested in May 2018 and 2019

Number of Vote: 19 voted in favor, 11 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

**Acceptance of this legislation by the TXST Administration would be a direct incentivization of unlawful action and disobedience by students. Secondly, the content of this legislation was misrepresented before the senate by its author and sponsors during consideration.**

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.12 Resolution Calling for the Establishment of a Cultural Activities Fee

Number of Vote: 26 voted in favor, 4 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

**This legislation recommends the introduction of a universal fee for a service already available to students at "a highly reduced cost", in the words of the piece. At this time, the greater student population is wholly uninterested in increasing the cost of attendance for this purpose.**

Acknowledged are the following pieces considered and passed by the Student Senate.

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.10 Resolution in Support for The Texas State Employees Union's Petition

Number of Vote: 20 voted in favor, 9 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.13 Resolution Calling for the Theatre Department to Adjust its Curriculum to Better Accommodate Students

Number of Vote: 20 voted in favor, 10 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.16 Resolution Calling for the Installation of Artistic Murals

Number of Vote: 18 voted in favor, 8 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.17 Resolution Calling for Updated Caloric and Diet Specific Information in Dining Halls

Number of Vote: 29 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.18 Resolution Calling for the Creation of Cultural Diversity Flagged Course in Required Curriculum

Number of Vote: 16 voted in favor, 10 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.19 Resolution to Leverage Bobcat Trace to Further Mental Health Outreach from the University

Number of Vote: 26 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.20 Resolution Calling on Free Masks in Major Student Service Buildings

Number of Vote: 28 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 1 voted to abstain

Legislation Passed: S.R.2020-2021.21 Resolution to Encourage Fee Transparency When Registering for Classes, Through an Online Code Pledge

Number of Vote: 30 voted in favor, 0 voted in opposition, 0 voted to abstain

**AUTHOR:**

Senator Halter, Colton

**SPONSORS:**

Senator Gurvitz, Shoval

Senator DeSalvo, Cody

Senator Galvan, Jordyn

Senator Hurtado, Diego

Senator Retz, Cody

**S.R.2020.2021.10**

**Date of First Reading: August 24, 2020**

1

**A Resolution**

To be entitled the "Resolution in Support for The Texas State Employees Union's Petition" calling for Texas State to accept the demands of the Texas State Employees Union (CWA Local 6186) in full to ensure that Texas State adequately supports its students in workers in the midst of this pandemic

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**WHEREAS:** "The Texas State Employees Union (CWA Local 6186) is a

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rank-and-file union representing all state employees, including

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university workers. TSEU fights for economic, racial, and

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environmental justice in our communities and workplaces. Texas's

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public universities are the largest employers of state workers

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and need to lead the way in protecting our workforce and those

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who we serve during the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect all state

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workers, and particularly the most vulnerable—low-wage and

10 frontline workers, people of color, the uninsured—we demand that  
11 the Texas State University System Board of Regents;”<sup>1</sup> and

12 **WHEREAS:** It is in the interests of Student Government to stand  
13 in solidarity with the Union that represents the workers at  
14 Texas State; and

15 **WHEREAS:** Texas State University will be putting its students and  
16 workers at risk should classes resume in the fall and will be  
17 putting the livelihood of workers at risk should they continue  
18 to lay off workers; and

19 **WHEREAS:** Texas State must put its employees and students first  
20 when deciding what course of action to take in the fall, not  
21 money; therefore,

22 **RESOLVED:** Texas State Student Government Senate calls on Texas  
23 State University and the Texas State University System Board of  
24 Regents to accept the following demands of the TSEU:

25

- 26 ● Move all face-to-face classes with more than 10 people to  
27 remote learning until there is a downward trajectory (or  
28 near-zero incidence) of documented cases over a 14-day  
29 period.
- 30 ● End furloughs and layoffs for the duration of the pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/protecttxstate?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/protecttxstate?source=direct_link&)

- 31 ● Immediately issue hazard pay of \$500/month for every  
32 essential worker.
- 33 ● Maintain flexibility and continuation of status of  
34 international and DACA students and student-workers  
35 throughout this crisis. No deportations due to change to  
36 on-line classes and expedited travel visas to and from home  
37 country.
- 38 ● Immediately end contracting out vital services (dining,  
39 maintenance, landscaping, custodial, IT, construction) to  
40 private companies.
- 41 ● Provide free and frequent testing and high-quality PPE for  
42 all workers.
- 43 ● Provide free healthcare from each campus's respective  
44 healthcare provider for anybody affiliated with a school  
45 within the Texas State University system, including current  
46 contract workers on campuses.
- 47 ● Issue iPads/laptops and wi-fi hotspots for any student,  
48 staff, or faculty without the technology needed to continue  
49 their work remotely.
- 50 ● Begin transparent and frequent reporting of cases on and  
51 around campus.
- 52 ● Lower class sizes and hire additional TAs and instructors  
53 to preserve quality of education throughout pandemic.

- 54       ● Lower tuition 10% for duration of pandemic to support  
55           students and families.
- 56       ● Create board of staff, faculty, and students to divert  
57           unused resources to desperately needed community services  
58           for public good.
- 59       ● Demand increased state funding from the state Legislature  
60           to cover additional needs.