

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 Calorie 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 Gurvitz, Shoval

Sponsors:

Senator Halter, Colton

Senator Retz, Cody

Senator Galvan, Jordyn

Senator Stephanos, Jenna

Senator Cleveland, Jacob

S.B. 2020-2021.13

Date of First Reading: September 21, 2020

1

A Resolution

A resolution to be entitled "A Resolution Calling for the Theatre Department to Adjust its Curriculum to Better Accommodate Students" calling for the Theatre Department to adjust TH4390 - TH4393 to be less strenuous for students.

2

WHEREAS: The Theatre Department requires that Technical

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Production students take BFA 2, 3, 4, and 5 (TH4390,

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TH4391, TH4392, TH4393) for five semesters and each is

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worth three credit hours per semester and costs the

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same as any other 3 hour course (\$892.34 for the Fall

7

2020 semester); and

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WHEREAS: This class requires students to complete 84 hours of

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work per semester or about 6 hours per week on average

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to get a "C" and at least 126 hours per semester or

11 about 9 hours per week on average to get an "A"
12 including weekends; and
13 **WHEREAS:** Even after completing the required hours for the
14 semester, students will be FAILED if they decide to
15 stop working on a production they were assigned to
16 work on, which in practice requires them to work far
17 more hours than advertised; and
18 **WHEREAS:** While the syllabus justifies the hours required with
19 the following "There are approximately 14 weeks of
20 classes from the first day of the semester to the last
21 day so a student would spend 42 hours in a classroom
22 for a 3 hour course. On top of that is the time
23 outside of class used to prepare for assignments and
24 homework which is, on average, an additional 50
25 hours."¹ This is much more than the usual class as the
26 average time spent outside a normal class is about 3
27 hours per week² or 84 hours on a class per semester
28 (classroom time and preparation) which would barely
29 get a student a C in this course; and
30 **WHEREAS:** This class provides very little educational value, as
31 students only meet on the first day of class and do

¹ Class syllabus for BFA 2, 3, 4, and 5 (same document)

²<https://www.aacu.org/publications-research/periodicals/its-about-time-what-make-reported-declines-how-much-college>

32 not have any other classroom time, this differs from
33 traditional labs where it is primarily educational;
34 and

35 **WHEREAS:** Some students can be paid for the same work via work-
36 study, or being hired by the department; and

37 **WHEREAS:** For students being paid, often through work study
38 which does not factor into the department budget, the
39 hours they work for wages do not count toward their
40 required class hours; and

41 **WHEREAS:** This essentially prohibits Theatre Production Majors
42 from getting a job; and

43 **WHEREAS:** This forces Theatre Majors to either:

44 1. work extremely long hours not giving them adequate
45 time for academics, or

46 2. forces them to rely on loans, financial aid, or
47 parental assistance, which gives advantages to those
48 from wealthy backgrounds; and

49 **WHEREAS:** According to the US Department of Labor guidelines
50 unpaid internships at "for-profit" institutions are
51 legal only to "The extent to which the intern's work
52 complements, rather than displaces, the work of paid

53 employees while providing significant educational
54 benefits to the intern.”³ among other things; and
55 **WHEREAS:** If this were an unpaid internship at a for-profit
56 institution this would be illegal because students are
57 doing the same work as paid employees; therefore,

58 **BE IT RESOLVED:** We recommend that the Theatre Department
59 implement the following reforms to TH4390,
60 TH4391, TH4392, and TH4393:

- 61 • Give students taking the class a monthly stipend equal to
62 the amount of tuition paid for the class divided by the
63 amount of time spent working (approximately \$225 a month);
64 or
- 65 • Make the class free of charge for students; or
- 66 • Pay students minimum wage for the hours spent working
67 during this class; and
- 68 • Cap the hours worked per week at 25 hours and 20 hours for
69 international students to align with already existing
70 student worker standards; and
- 71 • Issue Edward Gary Street Green Parking Permits for those
72 required to take the class to facilitate travel to and from
73 class, especially during weekends when buses are irregular;
74 and

³ <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fact-sheets/71-flsa-internships>

75 • Have the hours of students being paid for the same work
76 count toward the class.

77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** In addition, any required increase in
78 the Theatre Department budget should be
79 offset by a proportional increase to
80 ticket prices, the implementation of a
81 Cultural Activities Fee⁴, or an increase
82 to another applicable fee.

83 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** This resolution be forwarded to the
84 Student Body President for further
85 action.

⁴<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentbusinessservices/FormRepository/globalFee/TTU-GlobalFeeDocument-2018-2020.pdf>