

TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY®
The rising STAR of Texas

Memorandum

December 17, 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

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

S.R.2020-2021.01 Resolution to Accept and Implement TXST Covid-19 List of Demands

This legislation intends to support several demands of protestors from the Texas State University administration, which include providing additional paid sick leave; hazard pay; full refunds for tuition and fees; compensation of university and private contractors' hourly and salary employees who were laid off due to COVID-19; suspension of Wells Fargo student loan payments by Wells Fargo; Chartwells payment of sick leave to Chartwells, and rent and evictions freeze by A.C.T. housing affiliates.

S.R.2020-2021.02 Resolution Calling for the University to Adopt Cite and Release Policies

This legislation intends to recommend the University to adopt cite and release policing policies like those adopted by the City of San Marcos in April 2020.

S.R.2020-2021.03 Resolution Calling for Reduced Student Fees for Fall 2020

This legislation intends to recommend the University implement a reduced student fee schedule to not include or lessen fee costs for things students would not be able to use such as for athletics, LBJSC (e.g. SACA events), recreation (e.g. Student Recreation Center), and transportation (e.g. buses).

S.R.2020-2021.04 Resolution Calling for Budget Transparency

This legislation intends to recommend the President of Texas State University, or her designee must introduce the proposed budget in a manner that provides at least 14 days' time for the Assembly (i.e., Student Senate and Graduate House) to review

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This letter is an electronic communication from Texas State University.

the budget before the President's presentation to the Assembly.

S.R.2020-2021.05 Resolution in Support of the Reduced Student Fees in Fall 2020 and Calls for Extension of Reductions in Spring 2020

This legislation intends to support the change in fee structure announced by the university for the Fall 2020 outbreak and should the university convert to a fully online academic experience in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021, and reduce access to university resources, Texas State University must develop a reduced student fee schedule for the Athletics Fee, Student Center Fee, Student Recreation Center, Transportation Services Fee, and Student Service Fee based on the level of programs and/or services each funding source will be able to provide to the student body (e.g., student's ability to attend athletic events, reductions to SACA's programming schedule, inability to reserve space in LBJ, inability to use workout facilities, reduced shuttle services, etc.).

S.R.2020-2021.06 Resolution in Support of Adopting 8 Can't Wait Policing Policies

This legislation intends to call for the University Police Department to adopt and enforce the policies articulated by the 8cantwait campaign and have the policies available on their website. (8cantwait.org)

S.R.2020-2021.09 Resolution Calling for Non-Policing Alternatives for Campus Safety

This legislation intends to call for alternative methods for ensuring campus safety and ending the over-policing of Texas State University.

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.

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.

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.2020-2021.14 Resolution Calling for the Expansion of Mental Health Resources

This legislation calls on the university to adopt outreach for mental health assessments, the adoption of Biofeedback rooms, and more effort towards outreaching for funding for mental health from different sources across the country.

S.R.2020-2021.15 Resolution calling for Stopping Coronavirus Spread by Increasing Testing Capability

This legislation intends for Student Government to urge campus administration and the Student Health Center to speed up testing in an effort to deliver results within at most 2 days due to its time-sensitive importance.

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

This legislation intends to recommend the university to commission more artistic works 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 services 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 Moloney, Patrick

SPONSORS

Senate Leader Lorenz, Quintin

Senate Parliamentarian DeSalvo, Cody

Senator Haynes, KeAirra

Senator Galvan, Jordyn

Senator Young, Jordan

Senator Neva, Sjule

Senator Adu-Nyako, Kojo

Senator Ernest, Ezra

Date of First Reading: October 12, 2020S.R. 20-21.18

A Resolution

To be known as "A Resolution Calling for the Creation of Cultural Diversity Flagged Course in Required Curriculum" that calls for the University to flag specific types of cultural diversity courses in the student information and enrollment system.

WHEREAS: The Student Government of Texas State University, on behalf of the student body of Texas State University, would like to address a cultural diversity flagged course requirement for undergraduate students; and

WHEREAS: Texas State University is an increasingly diverse campus. The University is currently designated as a Hispanic Serving institution and also serves a large African American student population; and

WHEREAS: The lack of cohesion between students of color precludes a lack of education in the curriculum required by the undergraduate degree requirements. University Seminar 1100 and other classes are required courses for all students, but the curriculum focuses on job acquisition and not on confronting personal biases; and

WHEREAS: The undergraduate degree requirements are not substantial enough to properly educate students about issues facing a diverse University and society; and

WHEREAS: Texas State University needs to mandate general education requirements to discuss race and equity. Without these improvements, continued issues related to diversity and inclusion will occur; and

WHEREAS: University of Texas (UT) Austin flags¹ specific curriculum in upper and lower division courses that meet the diversity or cultural education criterion; and

WHEREAS: At UT Austin, students are required to take one course flagged as a "Cultural diversity in the United States" and another course flagged as "Global Cultures" to graduate; and

WHEREAS: Flagged courses should be a graduation requirement for students to "...explore in-depth the practices and beliefs of one or more underrepresented cultural groups subject to persistent marginalization." To satisfy the requirements, the course must:

- At least one-third of the course grade must be based on content dealing with the culture, perspectives, and

¹ <https://ugs.utexas.edu/flags/students/earn>

history of one or more underrepresented cultural groups in the United States or around the world

- Courses should not focus on broad or systemic issues at the expense of a focus on the experiences of cultural group members
- Whenever possible, courses should include texts (including art, music, written work, scholarship, etc.) created by members of those cultural groups
- Students will learn about underrepresented cultural groups in the US or around the world concerning their own cultural experiences so that they engage in critical reflection

WHEREAS: As part of the required curriculum, Texas State should require two flagged courses that students must take in either their lower or upper-division classes to graduate; and

WHEREAS: The flagged courses should be designated as "Cultural Diversity in the United States²" and "Global Cultures"; and

WHEREAS: These courses will help educate students about current events surrounding diversity, race, equity, and inclusion; and

² <https://ugs.utexas.edu/flags/students/about/cultural-diversity>

WHEREAS: Courses with a Cultural Diversity and Global Cultures will make students more competitive on the global stage, informing them about broad social issues, now; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: That two flagged cultural courses will be required to graduate for undergraduate students. One designated by the registrar as "Cultural Diversity in the United States" and the other designated as "Global Cultures"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: This legislation be forwarded to the Student Body President for further action.