

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

Senate Leader Lorenz, Quintin

SPONSORS

Senate Parliamentarian DeSalvo, Cody

Senator Shi, Tiger

Senator Reed, Joseph

Senator Young, Jordan

Senator Stephanos, Jenna

Senator Pata, Hunter

Senator Martinek, Asher

Date of First Reading: October 12, 2020S.B. 20-21.19

A Resolution

To be known as "A Resolution to Leverage Bobcat Trace to Further Mental Health Outreach from the University" calling on the University to establish a system similar to Bobcat Trace to be used as a way for students to assess their mental health state, and potentially get on track to receiving care and streamlining the scheduling process.

WHEREAS: Currently the University does not offer an email-based way to outreach to students causing students to feel afraid to come forward to the Counseling Center for aid; and

WHEREAS: Recently the University modified the quantitative research tool known as Qualtrics to help student self-monitor and self-report their COVID-19 symptoms or status; and

WHEREAS: Using the same underlying functionality as with Bobcat Trace the University could leverage Qualtrics to help student self-assess their mental health and provide interventions to better students' mental health resources to fit the students' needs; and

WHEREAS: Right now a lack of systemic approaches to outreach may mean students suffer from mental health issues without an easy path toward receiving care for their mental health needs; and

WHEREAS: Without an outlet to engage with mental health easily, students can feel like just another number;

WHEREAS: Feelings of alienation and isolation can often cause students to self-medicate through drugs or alcohol and continue self-destructive habits; and

WHEREAS: According to a Review in the National Library of Medicine Titled "**Striving to help college students with mental health issues**" by Linda J Cook, many students often feel pressured to not come forward to their universities due to fear of the stigma of obtaining mental health resources, other problems include not realizing that they have a mental health issue before it is too late; and

WHEREAS: Students often lack the information regarding mental health issues, Ms. Cook goes on to discuss that students who go so long without mental health aid begin to contemplate suicide, and begin to partake in risky activities such as alcohol abuse, and drug abuse to sooth their needs which in turn is very self-destructive; and

WHEREAS: The University must begin to broaden their scope on mental health outreach so that they come in contact first on a

student wide basis via email on assessments to check for mental health needs that would be recorded for the University's use to further plan treatments to aid in bettering mental health; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Student Government calls for the Student Health Center, Counseling Center, or a collaborative team to commission a Bobcat Trace inspired Mental Health checkup circulating bimonthly emails targeting the potential needs for students assessing issues such as substance abuse, and levels of anxiety, and depression, as well as other leading indicators of mental health issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The University should begin to use the data that is collected data to create process for intervention in immanent mental health crisis, encourage appointments, and conducting outreach to distressed students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That when this legislation is passed and signed by the Student Body President, it will be forwarded to Dr. Richard A. Martinez Coordinator of Educational Programming and Outreach.

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