

TEXAS★STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas

SG Legislation
received by: *RW*
received date: *5/22/19*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dean of Students Dr. Margarita Arellano
Assistant Dean of Students Kathryn Weiser

DATE: Monday, May 13, 2019

FROM: Corey Benbow, Student Body President *B*

SUBJECT: S.R. 09 Administrative Apology Resolution

I approve of this legislation passed by the Student Government Senate which is to request Texas State University Board of Regents, President Denise Trauth, Vice President Eric Algoe, Vice President Joanne Smith, and Chief of Police Laurie Clouse, issue formal apologies to the student body for the violent arrests made on May 1st. Accordingly, the apology must address the mishandling of racial issues, the consistent loyalty to white-supremacist groups, and putting the student body in danger.

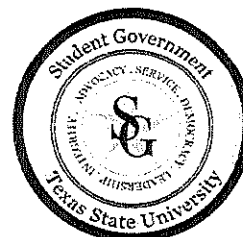
Furthermore, as president, I do not need to agree with every piece of legislation to sign it. I do have to take into consideration the sentiments behind the legislation and if the legislation stands in solidarity with the student body. One this legislation piece, while I do not agree with the legislation in its entirety, the student senate voting overwhelmingly in its support for this piece. I urge the university administration to take this into account when determining how to respond to this legislation.

x



Corey F. Benbow

Student Body President '20



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

601 UNIVERSITY DRIVE | SAN MARCOS, TEXAS 78666-4684 | phone 512.245.1274 | fax 512.245.8268 | STUDENTGOVERNMENT.DOS.TXSTATE.EDU

Texas State University was founded in 1899.

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Author

Senator Gasponi, Claudia

Sponsors

Senator Tichy, James, Senate Pro-Tempore
Senator Halter, Colton

S.R. 2019-2020.09

Date of First Reading May 8, 2019

A Resolution

A resolution to be entitled the "Administrative Apology Resolution," requesting Texas State University Board of Regents, President Dr. Denise Trauth, Vice President Eric Algoe, Vice President Dr. Joanne Smith, and Chief of Police Laurie Clouse, issue formal apologies to the student body for the violent arrests made on May 1st, mishandling of racial issues, the consistent loyalty to white-supremacist groups, and putting the student body in danger.

- 1 **WHEREAS:** Texas State University has one of the highest numbers
2 of white supremacist incidents of any university in the United
3 States (Inside Texas State's Year of Hate¹); and
4
5 **WHEREAS:** "On Dec. 3 [of 2017], university police stopped several
6 men inside the school's San Jacinto garage carrying stacks of
7 Patriot Front flyers. The men were given a warning, which police
8 said would give them the authority to issue citations if they
9 came back on campus. The school has refused to release police
10 reports from that night, but San Marcos police say Sailors, the
11 former student, was one of three men stopped that same night by
12 San Marcos police" (Austin American Statesman²); and
13
14 **WHEREAS:** Violent white supremacists recently have begun visiting
15 our campus at high frequency again. Chris Ritchie visiting two
16 days after a Student Government meeting, Proud Boys attended a
17 Student Government meeting, Patriot Front flyers campus on April
18 29th, and Texas Nomads organized two separate marches on campus
19 April 23rd and May 1st; and
20

¹ <https://www.statesman.com/news/20181005/inside-texas-states-year-of-hate-neo-nazi-propaganda-fight>

² <https://www.statesman.com/news/20180408/8-white-supremacists-warned-with-criminal-trespass-after-posting-racist-flyers-texas-state-police-say>

21 **WHEREAS:** Texas Nomads canceled their marches not because of the
22 University pressuring them not to attend, but because of the
23 students' protest of their attendance; and
24

25 **WHEREAS:** White supremacy is terrorism and inherently violent;
26 and
27

28 **WHEREAS:** Texas State University has not attempted to make campus
29 safer for students or faculty from white supremacists or Nazis;
30 and
31

32 **WHEREAS:** On May 1st University Police violently assaulted and
33 arrested multiple students unlawfully; and
34

35 **WHEREAS:** The administration is responsible for cultivating
36 campus climate, including safety and inclusion; and
37

38 **WHEREAS:** Statements in the past have not sufficiently
39 acknowledged racism against minority communities and therefore
40 has let racism rise to the point of power that is unacceptable;
41 and
42

43 **WHEREAS:** The administration has only denounced "racism" one
44 time, in the case of a university star opinion column calling
45 out white supremacy, claiming that the author's content was
46 racist; therefore,
47

48 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That Texas State Student Senate hereby calls for
49 a formal apology be made by University Police Department Chief
50 of Police Laurie Clouse, Vice President for Financial Services
51 Eric Algoe, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Joanne Smith,
52 Provost Dr. Eugene Bourgeois, President Dr. Denise Trauth, and
53 the entire Board of Regents explicitly including

54 (a) the incredible and unlawful violence used on student
55 protestors on May 1st,

56 (b) the consistent mishandling of racial issues on campus
57 by higher administration,

58 (c) the inappropriate loyalty and protection to white
59 supremacist groups that have visited and terrorized Texas State
60 University

61 (d) the danger that these mishandlings and protection of
62 white supremacy put Texas State University students, faculty,
63 and staff in; and
64

65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That Texas State Student Senate does not
66 wish for this apology to be made because of an obligation, but

67 rather because the administration understands their wrongdoing
68 and wishes to correct past behavior; and

69
70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That upon passage, this resolution be
71 sent to Student Body President and aforementioned campus
72 administrators for further action.