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S.R.24-24.05

1 **A Resolution**

2 To be entitled "A Resolution to Partner with the University
3 Police Department to Create Free Speech Education Trainings for
4 Students and Emergency Responders" Relating to misinformation
5 regarding free speech rights on campus.

6 **WHEREAS:** On November 6th, a group of demonstrators incited an
7 aggressive protest on campus. The group yielded signs that
8 offended many individuals, inciting a counter- protest,
9 mass online and televised media response, and physical
10 and verbal attacks made by students. Although the rhetoric
11 was acknowledged as harmful and hateful by the university
12 president, the group acted within their First Amendment
13 right and could not be removed for hateful speech or
14 signage; and

15 **WHEREAS:** There are many misconceptions regarding the limitations
16 and freedoms of the First Amendment, as members of the
17 community expressed counter-opinions, but did so in a way
18 that violated the First Amendment rights of the initial
19 demonstrators who had to be escorted off campus.

20 Therefore, misconceptions regarding the university's
21 capacity to respond in these high-tense situations, as
22 well as the actions that can be taken by protestors to
23 stay in legal and university compliance- regarding issues
24 such as signage, disruption, and violence- are crucial to
25 being resolved to keep our constituents safe; and

26 **WHEREAS:** In a panel discussion about police-student relationships
27 held in collaboration with UPD by the Texas State NAACP
28 chapter, students expressed concerns about officer-
29 student relationships and communication, as well as the
30 ability to express opinions and file suggestions or
31 objections; and

32 **BE IT ENACTED:** Trainings should be provided regularly to both
33 students and responders to better educate individuals
34 about First Amendment guidelines and emotional
35 manipulation tactics, or "rage bait," that leads to
36 violent expressions and actions. Additionally, the
37 trainings should address common misconceptions and allow
38 individuals from all backgrounds to ask questions or
39 express comments about protests on campus. Trainings
40 should be conducted in partnership with UPD, local law
41 enforcement, student representatives, and external
42 representatives from interest groups like the ACLU to

43 better inform the TSUS community about expression, to
44 increase trust, encourage productive collaborations, and
45 improve relationships; and

46 **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** This resolution be forwarded to the Student
47 Body President for further action.