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Date of First Reading: [December 2nd, 2024]

S.R.24-24.06

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A Resolution

To be entitled "A Resolution Condemning 'The official Street Preachers'" Relating to the mistreatment of students at a free-speech rally.

WHEREAS: On November 6th, 2024, a group called the "official street preachers" incited an aggressive protest on campus. The group was led by notable figures among the religious groups that travel college campuses nationally, one of whom was previously arrested and banned from the University of Arizona after he assaulted a female student. He has been pictured holding signs that say "God laughs at your rape" and "you deserve rape," and while on TSUS property, the group's demonstrators held signs that read misogynistic, homophobic, and racist remarks including "Women are property," "types of property [include]: women, slaves, animals, cars, land, etc." and "homo sex is sin;" and

18 **WHEREAS:** University President Kelly Dampousse released a
19 statement on Nov. 7 acknowledging the harmful impacts the
20 protest had on students, writing "that this type of
21 behavior came to our campus because it runs so contrary
22 to the values that we hold at TXST – in particular, that
23 we respect and value others and that we believe that all
24 Bobcats belong here. Messages like the ones expressed by
25 the demonstrators, sow confusion, anger, distrust,
26 bitterness, fear, and anxiety (none of which belong on
27 our campuses). While TXST is legally committed to
28 protecting free speech on our campuses, we understand that
29 words can negatively impact members of our community. I
30 condemn the hateful words these two men wrote and spoke
31 while they were on our campus. That kind of hate is not
32 welcome here;" and

33 **WHEREAS:** According to the TSUS Office of Equal Opportunity and
34 Title IX, the federal education act IX "prohibits sexual
35 discrimination in federally funded educational programs
36 or activities." According to Chief Carmichael, several
37 students have submitted Title IX violation claims
38 regarding the protest; and

39 **WHEREAS:** The incident incited a mass response from students and
40 media, amplifying the severity of the situation; and

41 **BE IT ENACTED:** Student Government formally condemns “the official
42 street protesters” and its affiliate members for their
43 actions and words. The TXST Student Government body
44 formally acknowledges the pain and implications the
45 harmful rhetoric and demonstration had on its students,
46 and we encourage students to continue to act within their
47 rights of peaceful discourse and counter-protests. We
48 formally denounce hate and harmful speech that incites
49 violence and causes harm to our constituents and reaffirm
50 our commitment to supporting and speaking out on behalf
51 of the student body; and

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