This Resolution Shall Henceforth Be Known As the “Call for Evaluation of Procedures pertaining to Sexual Assault and Harassment

PURPOSE

To recommend the stand to denounce acts of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment, and stand in solidarity with victims of such acts.

WHEREAS: Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution of The University of Texas at San Antonio’s Student Government Association reads: “[The duties and responsibilities of the SGA General Assembly shall be:] To review discuss, consider, and take any necessary action through legislation on all issues which concern the campus or students”; and

WHEREAS: Understanding the role of SGA in representing the student body and voicing their opinions, it is important for us to address concerns from students regarding sexual assault and/or harassment based on current facts and personal testimonies.

WHEREAS: Approximately 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college; and

WHEREAS: Over 63% of Sexual Assault cases are not reported to the police and more than 90% of Sexual Assault victims on college campuses do not report sexual assault incidents; and

WHEREAS: These reasons for not reporting include but are not limited to fear for their safety, their socioeconomic status, or their occupation, as well as a possible fear for and/or of the person who committed the act; and

WHEREAS: We cannot let friends, classmates, or co-workers be peer-pressured into remaining silent on matters as cases of sexual assault and harassment as in 8 out of 10 cases, the victim knew or was commonly associated with the person who sexually assaulted them; and

1 Ibid
WHEREAS: Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault reporting procedures should be encouraged even against peers, as peer pressure should not dictate the silencing of victims; and

WHEREAS: It is our imperative as members of the UTSA community to continually address concerns of Sexual Harassment; and

WHEREAS: Complaints of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault should be taken seriously by any department and organization with consideration of the victim’s feelings and well-being; and

WHEREAS: Policies regarding Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault should be updated to reflect current standards and areas lacking clarification, such as reporting procedures and counseling for aftercare, should be evaluated and resolved and;

WHEREAS: Should the 85th Texas Legislature pass laws pertaining to the improvement of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment policy including but not limited to SB 969, SB 970, and HB 223, we should seek to quickly and seamlessly include them into our existing procedures and;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Student Government Association of the University of Texas at San Antonio believes the acts of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault should be fiercely denounced as unacceptable and/or inappropriate behavior and should not be tolerated under any circumstances; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Student Government Association will work to further promote and improve health and counseling services offered on campus through the Student Health Advisory Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Student Government Association will continue to advocate for Sexual Assault policies that better protect students and members of the UTSA community.

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The University of Texas at San Antonio