Memorandum Regarding New Guidance for Title IX Protocols

On September 22, 2017, Candice Jackson, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights, released a Dear Colleague Letter and an associated Q&A document providing updated guidance regarding Title IX standards, including a rollback to several Obama-era requirements related to Title IX cases involving sexual assault and sexual harassment. This rollback directly addresses both standards of evidence and investigation timelines. In March of 2017, SGA passed resolution GA 106 “Evaluation of Sexual Assault on Campus” which directed that the “Student Government Association will continue to advocate for sexual assault policies that better protect students and members of the UTSA community”\(^1\). In light of these updated guidelines, the Student Government Association of the University of Texas at San Antonio hereby reaffirms our support for victims of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment or acts of sexual violence.

The September 22\(^{nd}\) Q&A on Campus Sexual Misconduct states, “There is no fixed time frame under which a school must complete a Title IX investigation.”\(^2\) However, student safety is still a priority of the Student Government Association, and we would like to reassure each student that we are committed to ensuring the ability to learn in a protected environment. Furthermore, the University of Texas at San Antonio will continue to treat every report of sexual misconduct with fairness, diligence and due process.

The Student Government Association of UTSA offers support to survivors throughout the recovery process. We, furthermore, encourage that survivors make use of confidential reporting through resources such as the Title IX office\(^3\) and Counseling Services\(^4\). We would like to promote both the Emergency and Non-Emergency Campus Police Contact information in the hope that students utilize these resources to report and prevent sexual assault on campus. In our commitment to the cause of eliminating campus sexual violence, the Student Government

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\(^1\) “Call for Evaluation of Procedure Pertaining to Sexual Assault and Harassment”, S.Res.106, 40\(^{th}\) General Assembly, 24\(^{th}\) Session, p.2, lines 38-40 (2017) (enacted)
\(^2\) [http://www.utsa.edu/ecs/titleix.html](http://www.utsa.edu/ecs/titleix.html)
\(^3\) [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-title-ix-201709.pdf](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-title-ix-201709.pdf)
\(^4\) [http://www.utsa.edu/ecs/titleixresources.html](http://www.utsa.edu/ecs/titleixresources.html)
Association will appoint student representatives to UTSA’s Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Committee.

The Student Government Association strongly condemns all acts of sexual violence and sexual misconduct, and encourages all students to abide by the Student Code of Conduct and to actively reflect the qualities of the Roadrunner creed. Every Roadrunner is responsible for ensuring that the UTSA campus provides a safe learning environment for all students and that all members of the UTSA community are treated with respect.

Marcus Thomas
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5 https://roadrunnerdays.utsa.edu/creed-alma-mater-fight-song/