



110<sup>th</sup> STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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## A.R. 21

### In Support of the Immediate Release and Implementation of the Biased Incident Policy at The University of Texas at Austin

**Authors:** PRESIDENT KEVIN HELGREN (*Student Government*), Vice-PRESIDENT BINNA KIM (*Student Government*), REPRESENTATIVE MICKY WOLF (*University-Wide*), CHIEF OF STAFF ISALAH CARTER (*Student Government Executive Board*), DIRECTOR ADIT BIOR (*Advocacy, Student Government Executive Board*), AND SPEAKER SANTIAGO ROSALES (*Student Government Assembly*)

**Sponsors:** SPEAKER SANTIAGO ROSALES (*Student Government Assembly*), AND REPRESENTATIVE MICKY WOLF (*University-Wide*)

**WHEREAS,** Student Government serves as the official voice of students at the University of Texas at Austin; and,

**WHEREAS,** On Monday, February 13th, 2017, propaganda promoting white supremacy and neo-Nazi ideology was found on and around campus, including but not limited to the Student Activity Center, the College of Liberal Arts building, and the Sanchez building<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** On this same day, a racial slur was depicted on the side of a potter in west campus<sup>2</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** On this same day, a hateful post targeting women, differently-abled students, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, Black students, and Jewish students-- the illegitimacy of which was confirmed after Administrators verified that the person was not a UT student and that room #666 does not exist in Jester East Residence Hall -- was made on the Class of UT 2020 Facebook page<sup>3</sup>; and,

1 [http://utnews.tumblr.com/post/157200879578/statement-about-posters-on-campus?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=UTAustinSocial](http://utnews.tumblr.com/post/157200879578/statement-about-posters-on-campus?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=UTAustinSocial)

2 <https://twitter.com/abiors3/status/831224759279034369/photo/1>

3 <https://twitter.com/kevinhelgren/status/831153611480690688/photo/1>

**WHEREAS,** On February 20th, 2016, a Black student by the name of Cody Young was on the receiving end of racial slurs and was the target of a hate crime in which students in the area west of campus threw bottles at Cody<sup>4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** On October 26th, 2016, Young Conservatives of Texas hosted an “anti-affirmative action bake sale” in which they placed financial values on students of color, women, and other students who hold marginalized identities<sup>5</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** Groups like the Campus Climate Response Team (CCRT) and the Campus Climate Advisory Board (CCAB) lack the capacity to take action in response to biased incidents; and,

**WHEREAS,** Hate speech is speech that offends, threatens, or insults groups, based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or other traits<sup>6</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** A bias incident policy, which was written by members of IUPRA and student leaders including, but not limited to, Jonathan Lin and Loyce Gayo, has been “under review” for months with little to no communication from UT administration<sup>7</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** On November 15th, 2016, the Student Government Assembly passed A.R. 13, In Support of Black Students and the Black Lives Matter Movement, in which we called upon the University to create and implement a biased incident policy to address acts of discrimination in the Longhorn community<sup>8</sup>; and therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That our University needs to take an active role in addressing actions and rhetoric that jeopardize student safety as opposed to making statements about diversity and inclusion; and therefore,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** The University of Texas at Austin Student Government calls upon the University to immediately release and implement the aforementioned bias-incident policy for the safety and protection of students who hold marginalized identities; and therefore,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** The University of Texas at Austin Student Government calls upon Gregory L. Fenves, President, and Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, to speak directly to student leaders and representatives from affected communities to parse out confusion surrounding free speech, hate speech, university policy, and other points of concern; and therefore,

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4 <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2016/03/29/ut-students-in-racially-motivated-assault-appeal-university-disciplinary-process>

5 <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/oct/27/university-texas-conservatives-spark-outrage-over/>

6 [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/initiatives\\_awards/students\\_in\\_action/debate\\_hate.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/students_in_action/debate_hate.html)

7 <http://diversity.utexas.edu/strategic-plan-2016/the-plan/>

8 <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2016/11/16/student-government-passes-resolution-in-support-of-black-lives-matter-movement>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Daily Texan, KVR News, the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, the Campus Climate Response Team, the Campus Climate Advisory Board, the Multicultural Engagement Center, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Office of the President, and the UT System Board of Regents.

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reading* on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Committed to Fast-tracked

Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reading* on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Approved by voice vote* Date: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Proof of Approval by the 110<sup>th</sup> Assembly

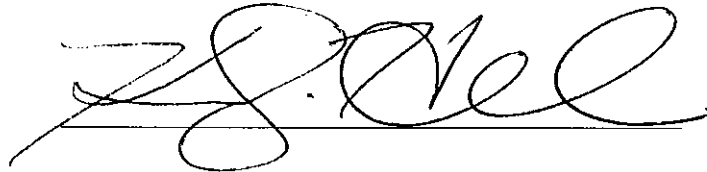
Santiago Rosales

*Speaker of the Assembly*

Hannah McMorris

*Clerk of the Assembly*

President's Approval

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Helgren', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Helgren, *Student Body President*