

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: UB-57002

Date introduced: July 1st, 2020

Author(s): President Khademakbari

Sponsor(s): Vice President Rashid, Chief of Staff White, Public Relations Director Al-Hmoud, Outreach Director Nguyen, Externa Affairs Director Hulett, Deputy Chief of Staff Padron, Speaker Cheng

Committee: Student Life

Draft: Final

Policy Reforms Act

Whereas, one in five women in college will experience a sexual assault¹;

Whereas, only one in five college-age women report their sexual assault to the police²;

Whereas, the Office of Equal Opportunities Services (EOS) is responsible for the enforcement of the University of Houston's Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policies as well as ensuring policy information and services are accessible to all members of the University of Houston community³.

Whereas, six students from the UH Graduate College of Social Work wrote a petition with over 1,489 signatures from the UH community: Micaela (Micki) Rodriguez, Stephani-Nicole Leota, Alexandria Williams, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Leclair, Veronica Ramos and Chelsea Dalton Pederson³,

Whereas, the UH Revolution petition described above calls for transparency on the relationship between the University of Houston Police Department and the Houston Police Department as well as the eradication of force and racial profiling by UHPD.

¹ Krebs, C., Lindquist, C., Berzofsky, M., Shook-Sa, B., Peterson, K. (2016). Campus Climate Survey Validation Study Final Technical Report. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice.

² U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2014). Rape and Sexual Victimization Among College-Aged Females, 1995-2013.

³ https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/uhrevolution?source=direct_link&

Whereas, the UH Revolution petition calls on UHPD to provide de-escalation and anti-racism training to its officers.

Whereas, there have been numerous student accounts of UHPD using overly aggressive tactics as well as the use of sexist, victim-blaming remarks used by officers to survivors of sexual assault.

Whereas, curriculums in the honors college, philosophy and English departments have been deemed Eurocentric and non-inclusive.

Whereas, University of Houston Faculty and Staff demographics do not adequately represent the demographics of the UH Student Body, with the largest disparities being between African American and Hispanic faculty and student distributions.⁴

Whereas, the National Pan-Hellenic Council of the University of Houston wrote a petition⁵ with 1,250 signatures that called for UH to amend Article 6 of the University of Houston's Registered Student Organization Indoor Event Policy that states, "During the event, UHPD has the authority to require the hosting organization and UH personnel to implement additional safety precautions up to and including ending the event" and remove the requirement for UHPD to be present at NPHC events.⁶

Whereas, the NPHC petition deems this policy to be subjective and discriminatory in nature.

Whereas, the NPHC petition calls for UH to remove the requirement for Fraternities and Sororities to pay for security services out of pocket.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

A variety of workgroups will be created through the office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services to review policy on the topics of Sexual Assault and Misconduct,

⁴ https://uh.edu/ir/reports/statistical-handbook/2018/faculty-university/univ_fac_rank_ethn.pdf

⁵ https://www.change.org/p/the-university-of-houston-and-the-uh-center-for-fraternity-and-sorority-life-end-policing-of-black-student-events-at-the-university-of-houston?original_footer_petition_id=18424025&algorithm=promoted&source_location=petition_footer&grid_position=14&pt=AVBldGI0aW9uAJzeWAEAAAAAXtp7NLc5ifAxYmJIOTEwMA%3D%3D

⁶ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VQ-gJg1nBg1bVyAwHkuacclt7Z-LFo3OEShfg9lsDb8/edit>

University Police Department, Diversity and Inclusion, Security at Student Events and Freedom of Expression.

Be it further enacted, a 'to report sexual misconduct and discrimination' form will be created by Equal Opportunity Services to facilitate reporting;

Be it further enacted, a Sexual Assault and Misconduct workgroup will be created to evaluate resources and policies utilized by Equal Opportunity Services as well as to establish better communication of said policies and due process education between itself and the UH community.

Be it further enacted, a University Police Department workgroup will be created to provide education on the relationship between UHPD and HPD, examine the practice of de-escalation tactics and trainings, evaluate the responses UHPD has to freedom of expression as well as freedom of expression policy.

Be it further enacted, the University Police Department workgroup will evaluate UHPD's response to sexual misconduct and assault and examine the trainings and techniques officers use when responding to such allegations.

Be it further enacted, a Diversity and Inclusion workgroup will be created with the purpose of educating students, faculty and staff on diversity and inclusion with an emphasis on issues relating to race.

Be it further enacted, a Security at Student Events Committee be created to review equity in event policies on the security at registered student organization events. This includes event registration, the indoor event policy, police coverage and others.

Be it further enacted, a sub-committee of the Security of Student Events committee will evaluate the event policies of fraternity and sorority life with an emphasis on the New Member Presentation Policy and Bayou Oaks Social Event Policy.

Be it further enacted, a Freedom of Expression workgroup will be created to establish an educational program on the UH Freedom of Expression Policy, hate speech, the First Amendment as well as establish a no-tolerance policy for racist speech.

Jasmine Khademakbari

Jasmine Khademakbari

Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 7/17/2020

APPROVED

Julian Cheng

Julian Cheng

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 7/17/20

