

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: UB-57003

Date introduced: August 26, 2020

Author(s): Senator García

Sponsor(s): President Khademakbari

Committee: Administration and Finance

Draft: Vote

Contractor and Subcontractor Employee Protections Act

Whereas, in October 2019, construction workers completing the Quadrangle Replacement Project (the Quad) came forward regarding unfair labor practices;

Whereas, students, community members, elected officials, and the workers themselves have put pressure on the University of Houston (the University), and the contractor hired by the University, to have the unfair labor practices alleged be comprehensively addressed;

Whereas, *The Cougar* reported on July 15, 2020, that the nine workers at the center of the pay issue reached a settlement with the appropriate entities¹;

Whereas, despite the settlement mentioned in *The Cougar*, Quad workers are still claiming to not have been paid the wages they are owed;

Whereas, the University's complaint system that has been utilized by the Quad workers to attempt a resolution of the above labor dispute has proven problematic and, with several other projects being constructed or planned for construction around the University, current and future workers on campus need to be protected with a functional dispute resolution system;

¹ The article can be found here: <https://thedailycougar.com/2020/07/15/quad-to-still-house-students-in-the-fall-unpaid-workers-case-settled/>

Whereas, the fact that outside agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Labor, are charged with investigating labor disputes does not absolve the University from implementing internal policy change to prevent unfair labor practices or account for current unfair labor practices by contractors and subcontractors;

Whereas, the students of the University stand with the Quad workers – and other workers on campus – who are experiencing labor exploitation in the form of nonpayment, underpayment, safety hazards, and other unfair labor practices.

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

University administration will form a work group with representation from relevant stakeholders involved in labor disputes on the University campus that fairly represents the different interests involved in a situation of worker exploitation by contractors or subcontractors of the University – including student representatives, employees of contractors and subcontractors, and construction worker advocates – to research and offer recommendations for University policy change that will prevent exploitation of employees of contractors and subcontracts on campus;

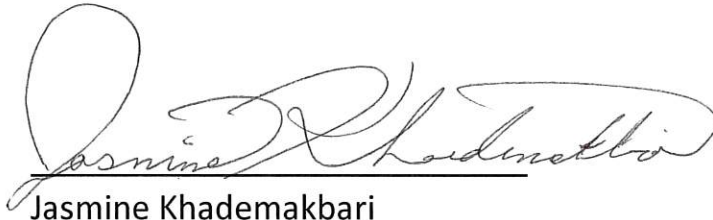
Be it further enacted, SGA will send a copy of this bill to the UH System Chancellor; UH Executive Director of Project Management; and UH General Counsel with the expectation that University administration will respond to the following questions in writing within 30 days after receipt of the bill:

1. Will relevant University administration officials meet with relevant stakeholders to resolve the Quad project labor dispute?
2. Will University administration agree to the demands made by Quad project workers in their August 24, 2020, petition²?
3. What local, state, and federal laws and regulations is the University taking advantage of to ensure accountability of Quad project contractor(s) and subcontractor(s)?
4. Will University administration release documents related to the Quad project labor dispute?

² A copy of the delivered petition with corresponding demands may be viewed at:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/2a3e42846ff4039204fb4c559a40a22275be18a1/?hash=4d7ab1e0f81268b609863d6d8ef70c54>

Be it further enacted, a SGA senator will meet with UH General Counsel to form the work group and hold the first session of the work group within 30 days of UH General Counsel receiving this bill.



Jasmine Khademakbari

Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 9/11/2020

APPROVED



Julian Cheng

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 9-11-2020

