

Faculty Senate Resolution on Campus Safety

Whereas, Southern Methodist University “is committed to maintaining an educational environment that supports safety and well-being through University policies, resources, education and prevention programs” (Message from President R. Gerald Turner, Sept. 30, 2016), and

Whereas, “no campus is free of crime,” but it is the responsibility of all members of the University community to “take reasonable precautions and work together to make our campuses secure environments” (SMU 2015 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, page 1), and

Whereas, it is a comprehensive standard of accreditation set forth by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools that “the institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community” (SACS Principles of Accreditation, 3.11.2), and

Whereas, the SMU Faculty Senate “bears the responsibility of speaking and acting for the General Faculty in matters affecting the University as a whole” (Faculty Senate Constitution, Preamble), and

Whereas, during the three-year period from 2013 to 2015, on the SMU Main Campus and the contiguous surrounding area, there were eleven forcible sex offenses reported to police and an additional four forcible sex offenses reported to other campus officials (SMU 2015 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, page 24), and

Whereas, during the same three-year period, there were four reported incidents of robbery, six reported incidents of aggravated assault, sixteen reported incidents of burglary, and numerous other reported criminal offenses (SMU 2015 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, page 25), and

Whereas, during a single week in April 2016, two robberies and an attempted robbery on campus were reported to the SMU Police (Message from SMU Aware, April 23, 2016), and

Whereas, on July 7, 2016, a group of police officers was ambushed and fired upon in downtown Dallas, resulting in the deaths of five officers and injuries to nine

others (*Dallas Morning News*, “Dallas police shooter killed 4 officers on the street, 1 through a second-floor window,” July 14, 2016), now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University requests the administration to:

- (1) review current emergency and security procedures;
- (2) take all necessary steps to keep pace with changing safety concerns; and
- (3) report to the Senate by the end of the Fall 2016 semester on the current status of SMU’s security measures, a comparison of SMU’s status with other urban universities of similar size, and steps that have been taken to address deficiencies.