



Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government
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Senate Document—Official Copy

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original document.

Signed:  Date: November 30, 2014
Aleksandra Czulak '17,
Executive Secretary of the Senate.

Description of Senate Document

Name: N/A

Resolution Number (if a Senate Resolution): Senate Resolution 47-2014

Date Approved or Published: Sunday, November 30, 2014 (Approved by the Senate)

Topic: Calling for transparency in the results of any campus climate survey that the University administers, inviting administrators to the next Senate meeting to address concerns about the AAU campus climate survey, and requesting that President Eisgruber not decide on whether to participate in the AAU survey until after such Senate meeting.

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THE SENATE

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Senate Resolution 47-2014

Submitted by ZHAN OKUDA-LIM '15, U-Council Chair and U-Councilor

Resolution

Calling on the administration to be fully transparent with any sexual assault campus climate survey that the University conducts while protecting the anonymity of respondents, inviting a representative or representatives of the administration to the next Senate meeting to discuss concerns about the American Association of Universities sexual assault climate survey, requesting that President Eisgruber not decide on participation in such survey until after such Senate meeting, and for other purposes.

Whereas on November 5, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights entered into a Resolution Agreement¹ ("Agreement") with the University to ensure that the University complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;²

Whereas section G of the Agreement requires that—

(1) by January 15, 2015, the University "submit for OCR review and approval a description of the tools used for conducting a climate check or series of climate checks";³ and

(2) by October 1, 2015, the University conducts "a climate check with students to assess the steps an [sic] measures pursuant to this Resolution Agreement and otherwise by the University to achieve its goal of a campus free of sexual misconduct, in particular sexual assault/violence";⁴

Whereas on November 14, 2014, the American Association of Universities ("AAU") announced that it was contracting with research firm Westat to create a sexual assault climate survey ("AAU survey");⁵

Whereas researchers,⁶ public officials,⁷ Senate members, and undergraduates⁸ have expressed several concerns relating to the AAU survey, including concerns about the transparency of AAU survey results because—

(1) the AAU would release the results for a university only to that university instead of making all information—aggregate data and data specific to each university—publicly available for review;⁹

(2) each university would not be required by the AAU to disclose all of the data that are specific to that university, although the AAU encourages each university to be "transparent with their results";¹⁰

Whereas in a memorandum dated November 20, 2014, Hunter Rawlings, President of the AAU, responded to the concerns expressed about the AAU survey;¹¹

Whereas on November 30, 2014, President Christopher L. Eisgruber indicated that he can ask an administrator to address the concerns expressed about the AAU survey;¹²

Whereas section 103(4) of the Senate Constitution provides that a key object of the Senate is to “discuss, deliberate, and take an official position on a question relating to or affecting undergraduate life or any other question of interest to undergraduates”; and

Whereas University practices relating to sexual misconduct are of high importance to undergraduates: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government,

SECTION 1. TRANSPARENCY IN CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY.

The Senate calls on the administration to be fully transparent with the results of any campus climate survey that the University conducts while protecting the anonymity of each survey respondent.

SEC. 2. COMMUNICATION FROM UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT; INVITATION TO SENATE MEETING.

(a) COMMUNICATION FROM PRESIDENT EISGRUBER.—The Senate appreciates President Eisgruber’s offer to ask an administrator to address the concerns expressed about the AAU survey.

(b) INVITATION OF ADMINISTRATORS TO NEXT MEETING.—The Senate invites a representative or representatives from the administration to the next Senate meeting to address the concerns expressed about the AAU survey.

SEC. 3. REQUEST FOR UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT TO NOT DECIDE ON UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION IN AAU SURVEY UNTIL AFTER SENATE MEETING.

The Senate requests that President Eisgruber not decide on the University’s participation in the AAU survey until after the meeting between the Senate and a representative or representatives from the administration as described in section 2.

SEC. 4. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.

The Senate directs the Executive Secretary to transmit an official copy of this resolution to each of the following University officers:

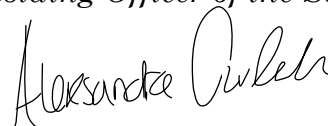
- (1) The President of the University (President Christopher L. Eisgruber ’83).
- (2) The Provost of the University (Provost David S. Lee *96 *99).
- (3) The Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, University Title IX Coordinator, and Co-Chair of the Faculty-Student Committee on Sexual Misconduct (Vice Provost Michele Minter).
- (4) The Co-Chair of the Faculty-Student Committee on Sexual Misconduct (Professor Deborah Nord).
- (5) The University Title IX Administrator (Ms. Regan Crotty ’00).

Approved November 30, 2014.



Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government and
Presiding Officer of the Senate.

Attest:



Executive Secretary of the Senate.

Endnotes

¹ Resolution Agreement between Princeton Univ. and the U.S. Dep't of Educ. Office for Civil Rights, case no. 02-11-2025 (proposed Oct. 12, 2014; agreed to Nov. 5, 2014) [hereinafter "Agreement"], <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/princeton-agreement.pdf>.

² Pub. L. No. 92-318, tit. IX, 86 Stat. 235, 373-75 (codified as amended at 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 (2013)).

³ Agreement, *supra* note 1, § G, para. 1, at 11.

⁴ *Id.*, para. 2, at 10.

⁵ Press Release, Am. Ass'n of Universities, "AAU Announces Sexual Assault Climate Survey" (Nov. 14, 2014),

https://www.aau.edu/uploadedFiles/News_Room/Press_Releases/2014/AAU%20Announces%20Sexual%20Assault%20Climate%20Survey%20-%2011-14-14.pdf.

⁶ Tom Bartlett, *AAU Planned Sexual-Assault Survey Draws Backlash From Some Researchers*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Nov. 18, 2014), <http://chronicle.com/article/AAU-s-Planned-Sexual-Assault/150115/>.

⁷ Tyler Kingkade, *Experts Criticize Higher Ed Lobby for Undermining Federal Fight Against Campus Sexual Assault*, *Huffington Post* (Nov. 18, 2014), http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/18/higher-ed-lobby-rape_n_6175098.html.

⁸ As expressed at the special Senate meeting held on November 30, 2014.

⁹ Memorandum from Hunter Rawlings, President of the AAU, to AAU Presidents and Chancellors, para. 6, at 2 (Nov. 14, 2014),

https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/files/Westat%20Announcement%20Packet%20-%20Memo%20to%20Constituents-1.pdf.

¹⁰ Memorandum from Hunter Rawlings, President of the AAU, to AAU Presidents and Chancellors, para. 8, at 2 (Nov. 20, 2014),

<http://dynamic.uoregon.edu/scientists/Sexual%20Assault%20Communication%20November%2020.pdf>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Email from Christopher Eisgruber, President of the University, to Shawon Jackson, USG President (Nov. 30, 2014) (on file with the recipient).