September 3, 2019

To: Corey Benbow, Student Government President

From: Dr. Joanne Smith

SUBJ: Student Government Legislation:
- S.R. 05 A Resolution for the Registration of Freshmen Students by the Dean of Students and University College
- S.R. 97 A Resolution Calling for Protection Against Election Intimidation

I am in receipt of these legislation resolutions regarding the registration of freshmen students and protection against election intimidation. Throughout the summer, several administrators and also Senator Catherine Wicker met with the Mayor and Election Chair to discuss the possibility of having a polling place at Texas State that would allow students, faculty, and staff eligible to vote in Hays County the opportunity to conveniently vote on campus and there was extensive conversation about how to protect voters from election intimidation. Fortunately, Texas State was selected for a polling place in the LBJ Student Center. Part of the discussion was utilizing one of the new rooms in LBJ for the booths and using one side of the corridor to enter and a different side to exit. We will have assistance in monitoring the corridor and voting room to ensure that the proper guidelines will occur to curtail illegal activity at the polls.

Regarding the registration of freshmen or any student, we appreciate the work that Student Government has done to be deputized to register freshmen at Bobcat Cares. Other organizations have indicated that they will also help register students to vote. A Voting Task Force was formed last year to discuss options for registering students to vote and educating them about their options. The Task Force made some recommendations to the President and a standing committee regarding Elections and voting protocols has been formed. This group will be determining appropriate actions to educate and register students in an ongoing way starting this academic year. I encourage Student Government to work with the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee to continue discussion about the best way to educate and register students.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

JHS/lsac

cc: Dr. Margarita Arellano, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Kathy Weiser, Advisor

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
601 University Drive | San Marcos, Texas 78666-4684 | phone 512.245.2152 | fax 512.245.7979 | www.txstate.edu
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