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Date of First Reading: September 23, 2019

A Resolution –

To be known as “A Resolution Calling on Texas State University to Implement an Independent Police Advisory Council” which calls on the University Administration establishes an Independent Police Advisory Council strategically positioned independent of the Police Department in order to provide authentic community engagement, policy review, informal complaint analysis, as well as research through data transparency.

WHEREAS: Student Government serves as the official voice for students at Texas State University; and

WHEREAS: The University Police Department (UPD) serves as the officially recognized law enforcement on the Texas State University campuses; and

WHEREAS: UPD is expected to create a high-performing, diverse team, committed to the principles of community policing through the demonstration of best practices in university law enforcement while providing a safe

1 https://www.police.txstate.edu/about/history-and-mission.html
and inclusive learning and working environment\(^2\); and

**WHEREAS:** UPD publicly commits to adhering to the following values to guide their conduct, including *Transparency* - availability of information for effective collaboration and cooperation with our community; *Respect* - treat everyone with dignity and compassion; *Integrity* - uphold the highest ethical standards; *Innovation* - create visionary solutions in the pursuit of excellence\(^3\); and

**WHEREAS:** The Chief of Police, under the general administrative direction of the University President\(^4\), is responsible for and has commensurate authority to command, direct, and organize the UPD; and

**WHEREAS:** The current organization of the UPD under the Division of President for Finance and Support Services without any independent oversight fosters an institutional lack of police oversight and advising which fails to include students, staff, faculty, and community members; and

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\(^2\) [https://www.police.txstate.edu/about/history-and-mission.html](https://www.police.txstate.edu/about/history-and-mission.html)

\(^3\) [https://www.police.txstate.edu/about/history-and-mission.html](https://www.police.txstate.edu/about/history-and-mission.html)

WHEREAS: In 2014 the University of California Davis established a robust independent Police Accountability Council (PAB) that includes multiple undergraduate students, graduate students, and staff members as voting members; and

WHEREAS: The University of California Merced has recently created a Police Advisory Council of 16 members that includes representation of students, faculty, and staff including a reserved spot for an undocumented student; and

WHEREAS: Municipalities across the nation have adopted robust oversight of police departments in order to foster a more direct feedback loop between police and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS: The lack of accountability and transparency of police forces deteriorates the trust between the law enforcement and members of the community, fostering an unsafe campus climate; and

WHEREAS: Students have repeatedly petitioned for increased transparency and accountability from both UPD and the administration that they report to and have been systematically removed from the critical process; and

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5 https://pab.ucdavis.edu/pab_members.html
6 https://chancellor.ucmerced.edu/about-office/police-advisory-board
WHEREAS: Texas State University Systems Rules and Regulations, Chapter IV, Section 2.2(10), authorizes the University President to appoint campus committees, councils, and teams, and appointing or establishing procedures for the appointment of faculty, and staff; NOW, THEREFORE;

BE IT RESOLVED: The Student Government at Texas State University, through the advocacy of its Senators and Student Body President, explicitly call on the University President to establish a Presidential Independent Police Advisory Council that is organized and self-sustained in accordance with Appendix A, and adopted a University Police and Procedure Statement therein; and,

BE IT RESOLVED: That as a unified organization, the Student Government at Texas State University demonstrate our commitment to student representation and shared governance/oversight, by pausing future organizational partnership with UPD until the student-approved model for an individual advisory council, be adopted; and

BE IT RESOLVED: This legislation shall be forwarded to the Student Body President for further action.
Appendix A

Independent University Police Advisory Council

I. PURPOSE

A. The Independent University Police Advisory Council functions in an advisory capacity and should strive to work collaboratively with the Texas State University Police Department. However, the Council is not intended to act as a component of the Police Department and is situated specifically as a Presidential Council that can provide independent oversight so as to provide objective advice and scrutinize University Police Department practices, polices, and processes. While the Council is an independent body, the Council will regularly report directly to the University President or Vice President designee. The Council will have other responsibilities and rights granted by the university which include:

1. Serving as a liaison between the University Police Department and the University Community.
2. Advise and make recommendations to the President or designee concerning policy and practices of the University Police.
3. Advise and make recommendations to the President or designee concerning actions of the University Police Department and officers.
4. To be briefed by the Chief of Police regarding complaints of officer behavior and subsequent investigations of officers.
5. Conduct campus wide survey or use other methods to assess campus and police engagement.
6. To be briefed on all use of force incidents by the University Police.
7. To function as a sounding board for the Chief of Police and President or designee on various issues or concerns involving the University Police.
8. To provide input on programs and initiatives to enhance campus safety.
9. To prepare an annual report of the Council’s activities, which must be forwarded to the University President and made public on the University Police website.
II. SUPPORT
A. The President or Vice President designee will provide financial and staff support for the operations of this Council.

III. COMPOSITION
A. The Council will consist of nine (9) members of the campus community; eight (8) will serve as voting members, one (1) will serve as ex officio member. All members of the Council will be appointed to two (2) year terms. All new members of the Council must be accepted by the previous year’s Council prior to taking a position on the Council. All members of the Council must have demonstrated a commitment to our University’s diversity and inclusion statement.

B. Voting members will be composed of the primary constituent groups of the campus community: 1) Students, 2) Faculty, 3) Staff, 4) Local Community:
   1. There will be three (3) student representatives, one (1) appointed by the Student Government, one (1) appointed by the Residence Hall Association, and one (1) appointed by the Underrepresented Students Advisory Council.
   2. There will be two (2) faculty representatives appointed by Faculty Senate.
   3. There will be two (2) staff representatives appointed by Staff Council.
   4. There will be one (1) member of the local San Marcos community as selected through a process outlined by the Council.
   5. There will be one (1) non-voting and ex officio designee from UPD leadership (though not the Chief of Police).

C. The Council will be Co-Chaired by one faculty representative and one student representative as elected from within the Council.

IV. OPERATING PROCEDURES
A. The Council will set its own operating procedures, policies, and processes which cannot conflict with university police or the following standing rules of the Committee:
   1. The Council will meet at least monthly during the academic year. The scheduled of meetings will be developed at the beginning of each academic year by the Co-chairs.
2. For the purposes of conducting the Council’s business, a simple majority of the Council’s voting members must be present.

3. Meetings will be closed with the exception of public comment period during each meeting, and any public forum events conducted by the Council.

4. The Council will coordinate an open public forum each academic year to receive campus concerns.

5. The Co-Chairs will meet annually with the Texas State University System Board of Regents Audit and Risk Council or designee.

V. ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMMUNITY

A. The Council will release an annual report every academic year. This report will summarize a pertinent finding about community and police engagement, as well as clearly outline the role and impact of the Council. The Annual Report will be intentionally shared with members of the campus community that are more impacted by policing.

1. The Council will conduct at least one Public Forum or Town Hall style event a year to hear feedback from the campus community. Public meetings must be coordinated and facilitated by the Council and reflect the current needs of the campus community.

2. The Council will facilitate and review survey data relating to the campus community’s experience with the University Police.

   i. This data will be collected and evaluated by the Council using available university tools.

   ii. This data will be distilled into a public report for the campus community.

   iii. This data will then be used to inform the ways in which the Council engages with members of the campus community around policing.