A Resolution –

To Be Entitled – “The Campus Safety Review Resolution” calling on Texas State University administration to review the operational status of security cameras and emergency phones, and to revise procedures by which the placement of future cameras and emergency phones are determined

WHEREAS: As the recognized forum for student opinion on the Texas State University campus, Student Government has a duty to act in the best interests of students and prioritize issues important to the student body and;

WHEREAS: One of the most critical issues facing students currently is the issue of campus safety, notably an increase in crime in the San Marcos community and a lack of transparency on part of the administration about the number of crimes committed on campus and the operational status of services designed to address student safety needs and;

WHEREAS: According to the San Marcos Crime Rate Report, both property crime and violent crime have been on the overall uptick for the past 18 years and;
WHEREAS: Though increases in the absolute number of crimes can be partially attributed to growth, the Texas State University community faces unique challenges. According to College Factual Texas State University reported 385 safety-related incidents involving students on or near campus or other properties affiliated with the university in 2017. Out of the 2,795 colleges and universities that reported crime and safety data, 2,550 reported fewer incidents than this and;

WHEREAS: Following revelations from the Texas Tribune that Texas State University misrepresented campus crime statistics, in violation of the Clery Act, another article on October 7th of 2019 revealed that some of the surveillance cameras and emergency phones on campus were broken and;

WHEREAS: These systems are put in place to enhance student safety. Failing to keep them in service is not only a waste of money used to create them, it is a disservice to students. Cameras can provide valuable video evidence of crimes and emergency phones can provide help to students at critical times and;

WHEREAS: As of now, Texas State University’s mechanisms for reviewing and maintaining the operational status of these systems is inadequate. Although university officials now believe that the majority of security technology is operational, the Texas Tribune reported that there appears to be no documentation of the equipment’s performance and;

WHEREAS: To provide a safer campus and regain the trust of the students, Texas State University must improve how it handles the management of security technology therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED: That Student Government hereby demands that Texas State University Finance and Support Services, in collaboration with the University Police Department, conduct a comprehensive review of the operational status of security technology on campus. This must include a test of all cameras and emergency phones on campus, and a report on the status of these systems made available to the public. This report must include:

a) The number of cameras and emergency phones, out of the total number of each on campus, that are operational
b) A timeline for repairing any broken systems, as well as an outline of the resources needed to make the necessary repairs and how these will be allocated.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** If any data has been collected previously, but not made available to the public, then that information is to be released to the student body.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That on advice of the University Police Department and any relevant oversight entities, this report may omit certain info such as the exact location of all cameras that would be useful for would be criminals, provided that at least some of the people who have oversight and access to this data and relevant procedures are students.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** This report be conducted and released every academic year, on a timetable to be determined by relevant oversight authorities and made available to Student Government and the Public.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That for the future placement of any new cameras or emergency phones on campus, Texas State University should abide by the following procedure: When 2 or more crimes have occurred within a single month at a single, specific, identifiable location (i.e. building, parking garage, etc.), Texas State University must review the placement of lighting, cameras, and emergency phones in that location. If it is found that inadequacies are present in the degree to which these things are available, then one or all of these items must be updated. If no changes are made justification must be presented as to why. This information must be made available in public annual reports following the same procedures as reports on the operational status of existing security technology.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That Finance and Support Services and UPD are to provide a procedure for implementation within two months of the passage of this legislation.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That Texas State University should establish and implement a strict timeline to adhere to when installing new cameras or emergency phones or repairing ones found to be defunct as part of the comprehensive review. In an effort to ensure all safety features on campus are in working order at all times and to maintain accountability, this timeline should be made available to the student body, faculty and staff.
BE IT RESOLVED: That upon passage this piece of legislation be forwarded to the Student Body President for further action