**Senate Resolution 20/21-07: Forming an Advisory Council to UAH PD**

History: Received on October 29, 2020 and Introduced to the FSEC on November 5, 2020 as Bill 456

Passed First Reading at FSEC on Nov. 5, 2020

Before Faculty Senate, Nov. 19, 2020 for Second Reading as Senate Bill 456. Passed unanimously,

Becoming Senate Resolution 20/21-07

WHEREAS the University, recognizing that the unfair treatment of people of color “…speak[s] to the institutionalized racism that plagues our country,”[[1]](#footnote-1) has committed itself in recent years to “continue the work of addressing deeply rooted institutionalized racism and injustice, of seeking ways to engage in respectful, meaningful… difficult conversations, and of building a community that is safe, supportive, and inclusive for all,” [[2]](#footnote-2) and

WHEREAS the University, recognizing “that addressing racism and embracing diversity must be concepts and efforts that [it] engages in at every level of planning and in every activity,” [[3]](#footnote-3) from the classroom and campus to the community, has committed to “redouble [its] efforts joining forces with the students, faculty, and staff to continue promoting equity and inclusion in our planning, policies, and practice,” [[4]](#footnote-4) and

WHEREAS the Faculty have heretofore committed to “lead efforts and initiatives that strive for inclusiveness and diversity,”[[5]](#footnote-5) and to support the University in order “to create a campus and a community that is truly safe and welcoming for all,” [[6]](#footnote-6) and

WHEREAS recent studies reported through the International Association of Chiefs of Police have “emphasized the importance of citizen involvement in policing as a strategy to improve trust between law enforcement and the public,”[[7]](#footnote-7) including the establishment of “citizen advisory boards or community involvement … as action items for local law enforcement,”[[8]](#footnote-8) and

WHEREAS the UAH PD is committed to "value the need for effective use of our resources and to provide a spirit of openness in communication with our community” and “be responsible for our actions, willing to admit our mistakes and ensure that our behavior earns the support and trust of all segments of the public,"[[9]](#footnote-9) and

WHEREAS recent conduct by members of the UAH Police Department (PD) failed to adhere to the promotion of equity and inclusion in practice; failed further, to demonstrate a commitment to create a campus and a community that is truly safe and welcoming for all; and resulted in a call for transparency and accountability through the establishment of a council, from multiple stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members[[10]](#footnote-10),[[11]](#footnote-11) in order to ensure long-term change in the underlying culture and behaviors that resulted in the recent conduct by members of the UAH Police Department,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate proposes the establishment of a standing Advisory Council to the UAH PD comprised of members of the faculty, staff, student body, and community, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Advisory Council meets regularly with UAH PD leadership to discuss community concerns and to collaborate in the building of a community policing strategy on campus, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Advisory Council regularly reviews official complaints filed with the UAH PD and data related to UAH PD activities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Advisory Council be consulted on procedural and policy matters related to UAH PD, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon passage of this bill, that the Faculty Senate, in conjunction with the Staff Senate; the Student Government Association; and, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, will initiate the selection of Advisory Council members, and, in conjunction with the Office of the President, outline the charge for the Advisory Council to the UAH PD.

1. “Message from UAH Leadership Regarding Recent Events,” 6/3/20. Retrieved from <https://www.uah.edu/news/news/message-from-uah-leadership-regarding-recent-events> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Message from UAH Leadership Regarding Recent Events,” 6/3/20. Retrieved from <https://www.uah.edu/news/news/message-from-uah-leadership-regarding-recent-events> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Message from UAH Leadership Regarding Recent Events,” 6/3/20. Retrieved from <https://www.uah.edu/news/news/message-from-uah-leadership-regarding-recent-events> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “Message from UAH Leadership Regarding Recent Events,” 6/3/20. Retrieved from <https://www.uah.edu/news/news/message-from-uah-leadership-regarding-recent-events> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. UAH Faculty Senate Bill 405 “Diversity and Inclusiveness,” 3/23/17. Retrieved from <https://www.uah.edu/faculty-senate/current-business/bills> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “Message from UAH Leadership Regarding Recent Events,” 6/3/20. Retrieved from <https://www.uah.edu/news/news/message-from-uah-leadership-regarding-recent-events> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Citizen Advisory Boards in Contemporary Practice: A Practical Approach in Policing. Retrieved from <https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/citizen-advisory-boards-in-contemporary-practice-a-practical-approach-in-policing/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Promoting Community Involvement in Law Enforcement: Community Advisory Boards. Retrieved from <https://www.theiacp.org/news/blog-post/promoting-community-involvement-in-law-enforcement-community-advisory-boards> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Values: Responsibility and Accountability. Retrieved from <https://www.uah.edu/police> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. UAH Police Statement, UAH Chapter – NAACP. Retrieved from <https://whnt.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2020/10/UAH-Police-Statement.docx-3-1.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Mother asking for answers and accountability after what she said happened after a traffic stop. Retrieved from: <https://whnt.com/news/racial-justice-movement/mother-asking-for-answers-and-accountability-after-what-she-said-happened-after-a-traffic-stop/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)