A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE “FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION ON CAMPUS SAFETY”

WHEREAS Southern Methodist University “is committed to maintaining an educational environment that supports safety and well-being through University policies, resources, education and prevention programs” (Message from President R. Gerald Turner, Oct. 1, 2015), and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of all members of the University community to “take reasonable precautions and work together to make our campuses secure environments” (SMU 2014 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, page 1), and

WHEREAS it is a comprehensive standard of accreditation set forth by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools that “the institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community” (SACS Principles of Accreditation, 3.11.2), and

WHEREAS the SMU Faculty Senate “bears the responsibility of speaking and acting for the General Faculty in matters affecting the University as a whole” (Faculty Senate Constitution, Preamble), and

WHEREAS during the three-year period from 2012 to 2014, on the SMU Main Campus and the contiguous surrounding area, there were thirteen forcible sex offenses reported to police and an additional four forcible sex offenses reported to other campus officials (SMU 2014 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, page 25), and

WHEREAS during the same three-year period, there were four reported incidents of robbery, ten reported incidents of aggravated assault, nineteen reported incidents of burglary, and numerous other reported criminal offenses (SMU 2014 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, pages 25-26), and
WHEREAS during a single week in April 2016, two robberies and an attempted robbery on campus were reported to the SMU Police (Message from SMU Aware, April 23, 2016), and

WHEREAS on July 7, 2016, a group of police officers was ambushed and fired upon in downtown Dallas, resulting in the deaths of five officers and injuries to nine others (Dallas Morning News, “Dallas police shooter killed 4 officers on the street, 1 through a second-floor window,” July 14, 2016),

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate joins the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University in requesting the administration to:

(1) review current emergency and security procedures;
(2) take all necessary steps to keep pace with changing safety concerns; and
(3) report to the Faculty Senate before the end of the Fall 2016 semester on what progress is being made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blake Rainey
Student Body President

Will Jones
Student Body Secretary

Nathan De Vera
Student Senate Parliamentarian