

# **B.R.2021-3**

SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAUREN'S PROMISE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

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## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**

AUTHORED BY: Chief of Staff Caroline Unger and Vice President and Chief of Cabinet Tyler Viljaste  
CO-SPONSORED BY: President Eric Macadangdang, Executive Vice President Cedric Humphrey, Vice President and Chief of Finance Ben King, Board Member Katie Richmond, Board Member Annalise Abraham, Board Member Kathryn Fleisher, Board Member Victoria Chuah, and Board Member Victor So

23 MARCH 2021

Board Member Viljaste introduced the following resolution, which was read for the first time.

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## **A RESOLUTION**

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAUREN'S PROMISE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
PITTSBURGH

**CW: TOPICS RELATED TO MURDER, SEXUAL ASSAULT, HARASSMENT, AND PARTNER-RELATED ABUSE.**

1 WHEREAS Lauren McClusky, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered  
2 on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah  
3 Campus; and,  
4 WHEREAS, despite having reported her concerns to campus and city authorities on  
5 Many occasions, the University failed to protect Lauren; and,  
6 WHEREAS, the Lauren McCluskey Foundation was created as a result of this  
7 tragic event to raise awareness by promoting campus safety and funding research and  
8 education programs to keep college students safe while attending school; and,  
9 WHEREAS, Jill McCluskey, Lauren’s mother, created Lauren’s Promise, which  
10 states “I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you;” and,  
11 WHEREAS, Lauren’s Promise gives students another advocate, and points students  
12 to resources available on campus and in the community for sexual  
13 harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking; and,  
14 WHEREAS, faculty at 79 universities across the country<sup>1</sup> have begun to put  
15 Lauren’s Promise and additional resources on their syllabi; and,  
16 WHEREAS, the National Domestic Violence Hotline reports "nearly 3 in 10 women  
17 (29%) and 1 in 10 men (10%) in the United States have experienced rape,  
18 physical violence, and/or stalking by a partner;”<sup>2</sup> and  
19 WHEREAS, most victims of domestic abuse (69% of female victims and 53% of male  
20 victims) experience the first sign of violence before the age of 25<sup>3</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.abc4.com/news/top-stories/laurens-promise-over-70-professors-add-mccluskey-statement-to-syllabus/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/>

21 WHEREAS, nearly 58% of college students do not know what to do to help someone  
22 who is a victim of dating abuse, and 38% of college students do not know how  
23 to get help for themselves if they were a victim of dating abuse<sup>4</sup>; and,  
24 WHEREAS, the 2019 University of Pittsburgh Campus Climate Survey reports  
25 that “11.3 percent of students indicated that they had experienced at least  
26 one type of intimate partner violence;”<sup>5</sup> and,  
27 WHEREAS, according to this same report, “Among women, 15.7 percent of  
28 undergraduates and 7.2 percent of graduate/professional students reported  
29 experiencing at least one type of intimate partner violence;”<sup>6</sup> and,  
30 WHEREAS, University policy explicitly states that “No University employee,  
31 University student, or individual on University property may harass or abuse  
32 a person (physically, verbally or electronically) when the conduct is severe or  
33 pervasive and objectively and subjectively has the effect of: (1) unreasonably  
34 interfering with such person’s work or equal access to education, or (2)  
35 creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or academic  
36 environment;”<sup>7</sup> and,  
37 WHEREAS, The University of Pittsburgh has an obligation to do everything it can  
38 to ensure that all students are safe on campus and know about the resources  
39 available to them; *now, therefore, be it*

40 RESOLVED, that the Student Government Board of the University of Pittsburgh

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/University%20of%20Pittsburgh%20Report%20and%20Appendices\[3\].pdf](https://www.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/University%20of%20Pittsburgh%20Report%20and%20Appendices[3].pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/University%20of%20Pittsburgh%20Report%20and%20Appendices\[3\].pdf](https://www.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/University%20of%20Pittsburgh%20Report%20and%20Appendices[3].pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix-compliance/policies-procedures-and-practices/notice-non-discrimination>

41 calls on faculty of the University of Pittsburgh to include Lauren's Promise on  
42 their course syllabi to emphasize the importance of empathy and awareness  
43 in matters of sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and  
44 stalking, and to provide accountability for student support for students at the  
45 University of Pittsburgh; *and be it further*

46 RESOLVED, that the Student Government Board of the University of Pittsburgh  
47 calls on the Faculty Senate to institute measures to require that faculty  
48 include Lauren's Promise on all faculty course syllabi; *and be it further*

49 RESOLVED, that the Student Government Board of the University of Pittsburgh  
50 calls upon University Senior Leadership to formally adopt Lauren's promise  
51 and add the promise to their email signatures or other public-facing methods  
52 of communication, where appropriate; *and be it further*

53 RESOLVED, that the Student Government Board of the University of Pittsburgh  
54 calls upon University leadership to disseminate information about Lauren's  
55 Promise to the various College Deans and professors across all branch  
56 campuses; *and be it further*

57 RESOLVED, that the Student Government Board of the University of Pittsburgh  
58 calls upon University leadership to continue to do everything they can to  
59 ensure that their students are safe on campus — including investing in non-  
60 police oriented and non-criminal/legal system related outlets to report  
61 concerns and seek help, particularly for racial minority, gender minority, and  
62 otherwise marginalized students who might not find real safety and support  
63 in a police-centric resource system — and know about the resources available

to them.

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Eric Macadangang, President  
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board