**B.R.2021-3**

**SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAUREN’S PROMISE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**

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

AUTHORED BY: Chief of Staff Caroline Unger and Vice President and Chief of Cabinet Tyler Viljaste
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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.**
WHEREAS Lauren McClusky, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on October 22nd, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah Campus; and,

WHEREAS, despite having reported her concerns to campus and city authorities on Many occasions, the University failed to protect Lauren; and,

WHEREAS, the Lauren McCluskey Foundation was created as a result of this tragic event to raise awareness by promoting campus safety and funding research and education programs to keep college students safe while attending school; and,

WHEREAS, Jill McCluskey, Lauren’s mother, created Lauren’s Promise, which states “I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you;” and,

WHEREAS, Lauren’s Promise gives students another advocate, and points students to resources available on campus and in the community for sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking; and,

WHEREAS, faculty at 79 universities across the country\(^1\) have begun to put Lauren’s Promise and additional resources on their syllabi; and,

WHEREAS, the National Domestic Violence Hotline reports "nearly 3 in 10 women (29%) and 1 in 10 men (10%) in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by a partner;”\(^2\) and

WHEREAS, most victims of domestic abuse (69% of female victims and 53% of male victims) experience the first sign of violence before the age of 25\(^3\); and

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\(^2\) https://www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/

\(^3\) https://www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/
WHEREAS, nearly 58% of college students do not know what to do to help someone
who is a victim of dating abuse, and 38% of college students do not know how
to get help for themselves if they were a victim of dating abuse⁴; and,
WHEREAS, the 2019 University of Pittsburgh Campus Climate Survey reports
that “11.3 percent of students indicated that they had experienced at least
one type of intimate partner violence;”⁵ and,
WHEREAS, according to this same report, “Among women, 15.7 percent of
undergraduates and 7.2 percent of graduate/professional students reported
experiencing at least one type of intimate partner violence;”⁶ and,
WHEREAS, University policy explicitly states that “No University employee,
University student, or individual on University property may harass or abuse
a person (physically, verbally or electronically) when the conduct is severe or
pervasive and objectively and subjectively has the effect of: (1) unreasonably
interfering with such person’s work or equal access to education, or (2)
creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or academic
environment;”⁷ and,
WHEREAS, The University of Pittsburgh has an obligation to do everything it can
to ensure that all students are safe on campus and know about the resources
available to them; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Student Government Board of the University of Pittsburgh

⁴ https://www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/
⁵ https://www.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/University%20of%20Pittsburgh%20Report%20and%20Appendices[3].pdf
calls on faculty of the University of Pittsburgh to include Lauren's Promise on their course syllabi to emphasize the importance of empathy and awareness in matters of sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking, and to provide accountability for student support for students at the University of Pittsburgh; and be it further

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

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

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

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

Eric Macadangdang, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board