

First Reading: April 25, 2017
Second Reading: April 25, 2017
Pass: YES; 23-0-0
Fail:
Other:

Resolution 10-17-S Resolution to Support a Safer Environment for WKU

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support mandatory diversity, hate crime, and sexual assault training for WKUPD.

WHEREAS: Recently, Western Kentucky University has experienced a spike in racially-motivated hate crimes. Students, staff, and faculty of color have both been targeted, and

WHEREAS: The Western Kentucky University Police Department (WKUPD) must better understand and be able to identify these racially-motivated hate crimes and crimes involving sexual assault in order to provide a safe environment for the entire university, and

WHEREAS: Victims of these hate crimes often have not experienced understanding from WKUPD regarding the identification of hate crimes and how to respond accordingly, and

WHEREAS: According to 2016 FBI statistics, Warren County, KY, the centralized home of WKU, has the second-highest rate of hate crimes in our entire state. Warren County has remained in the medium-high to high range consistently since 2013, and

WHEREAS: Currently there is no policy within WKUPD specifying any type of diversity or hate crime identification training and,

WHEREAS: WKUPD is already required per the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Act (SAFE) Act of 2016 to receive 8 hours of basic training relevant to sexual assault. All WKUPD officers beginning after January 1, 2017 will have received this training in academy. By January 2019, WKUPD will be required to have at least 5 officers trained, and

WHEREAS: WKUPD should be required to have all staff and officers trained. This is especially true for dispatchers who are the first to identify if a person has been a victim of a crime, specifically, sexual assault crimes in this case. It is critical to identify these crimes as they are called in, and

WHEREAS: Hope Harbor has already agreed to provide sexual assault response, prevention, and Trauma Informed Care Training, at no cost to the University, and

WHEREAS: WKUPD should be required to take diversity, hate crime identification, and sexual assault for all officers training quarterly, and

WHEREAS: Colleges such as Pennsylvania College of Technology have already implemented a similar mandated training to their police, which has created a stronger police force and a more understanding & safer environment.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University support mandatory diversity, hate crime, and sexual assault training for all of WKUPD.

AUTHOR: Francisco Serrano
Brian Anderson
Serenda Lobue

SPONSOR: Legislative Research Committee
MyCampusToo
SGA SAVES

CONTACTS: Fabian Alvarez, WKU English Professor
Tarik Maddox, WKU Student
Mrs. Michelle Jones, Assistant Dean, University College
Serenda Lobue, Systems Advocacy Specialist, Hope Harbor