

Georgia Southern University
Intracampus Memo
Office of the President

Post Office Box 8033
Marvin Pittman Administration Building

TEL 478-5211
FAX 478-0598
TDD 871-1454

<http://president.georgiasouthern.edu/>

TO: Dr. Rob Pirro, Chair, Senate Executive Committee

FROM: Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D., President 

DATE: May 3, 2018

SUBJECT: March 6, 2018, Faculty Senate Recommendation: **Motion for a joint resolution on Admissions and Protest**

Following receipt of the Faculty Senate's recommendation at the March 6, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting, I must respectfully decline to support the Motion on a Joint Resolution on Admissions and Protest, as Georgia Southern University already has a process in place that is followed whenever we receive information that an applicant has pending disciplinary or academic misconduct charges, or has been disciplined, suspended, or expelled for conduct code violations from a high school.

Motion:

Whereas we, the faculty senates at Georgia Southern University, support student engagement in the social and political issues of our times, including the right to engage in peaceful protest, we resolve that such protest action will not negatively affect any future admission decisions made for students involved in such actions. We support the right of students to protest peacefully and encourage civic engagement in our future Georgia Southern Eagles.

Rationale:

Colleges and universities across the country are reassuring students that exercising their First Amendment right to peaceably assemble and petition our government for a redress of their grievances will not affect their college applications. Talented and accomplished high school students are worried that receiving disciplinary action will negatively impact their college applications. Students at Savannah Arts Academy, one of the best public high schools in the state, have expressed these very concerns. As a university dedicated to providing a "student-centered culture of engagement designed to prepare students for lifelong service as scholars, leaders, and responsible stewards of their communities," we need to let those prospective Eagles know that we've got their backs. (See Georgia Southern University's mission statement at <http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/mission/>)

- MIT: <http://mitadmissions.org/blogs/entry/policies-principles-and-protests>
- Emory: <https://emorywheel.com/emory-applicants-can-protest-gun-control-without-worry/>

- AJC on Emory & Agnes Scott: <https://www.ajc.com/news/local-education/metro-atlanta-campus-will-not-withhold-admission-students-gun-protests/MMysdQKXj5cPE9NoKQBpPI/>
- North Carolina State: <https://admissions.ncsu.edu/2018/02/26/a-message-from-the-admissions-office/>
- University of South Carolina: <https://twitter.com/UofSCAdmissions/status/967907983026982913>
- The Washington Examiner reports that 117 universities and colleges across the country have issued similar statements.
<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/college-admissions-suspension-for-walkout-gun-protests-wont-hurt-admissions-chances/article/2650116>

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Haberland, Senator, Georgia Southern-Statesboro Faculty Senate Kevin Jennings, Senator, Georgia Southern-Armstrong Faculty Senate

gm

c: Diana Cone
Candace Griffith
Christine Ludowise
Michelle Haberland