

**USAR 2022-01**

**Committee:** The Utah Student Association

**Reading and Approval Date:** October 1, 2021

**Resolution Supporting the Inclusion of Lauren’s Promise in Syllabi and Initiatives to Enhance Campus Safety**

1 **WHEREAS** the Utah Student Association (USA) seeks to assist the McCluskey family and the  
2 Lauren McCluskey Foundation in their efforts to promote greater safety on Utah college and  
3 university campuses.

4 **WHEREAS** USA seeks to increase awareness of Lauren’s Promise and help any person who  
5 may be in harm’s way on our campuses.

6 **WHEREAS** USA seeks to encourage individuals facing domestic abuse or dangerous  
7 relationship situations to reach out for help.

8 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** USA encourages professors at colleges and  
9 universities in Utah to make Lauren’s Promise and include it in their syllabi.

10 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** USA supports all efforts to ensure Lauren’s light  
11 lives on and promote campus safety through initiatives and events on our specific campuses.

**Tags:** Campus Safety

**Sponsors:** Nouman Kante, USA President and SUUSA President, Lucas Stevens, USA  
Legislative Vice President and USUSA President, and Jessica Wojciechowski, ASUU President

## **Policy Paper**

**Committee:** Utah Student Association

**In Attendance:** Nouman Kante, Penny Mills, Lucas Stevens, Jessica Wojciechowski, Brady Curtis, Bryson Pugh, Karen Magaña, Lindsay Simons, Tanner Marcum

**Result:** Passed

### **History:**

Lauren McCluskey, a University of Utah student, was tragically murdered on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 on campus due to relationship violence. Dr. Jill McCluskey, Lauren's mother and professor at Washington State University, advocates for all professors to include a statement, Lauren's Promise, within their syllabi. The promise reads, "I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you," and is typically followed by emergency and university resource information. Professors at Washington State University, the University of Utah, Utah State University, Brigham Young University and many other universities across the country have adopted Lauren's Promise on their syllabi. At the University of Utah, ASUU passed Joint Resolution No. 6, encouraging the inclusion of Lauren's promise in syllabi and increasing overall campus safety.

### **Purpose:**

This year, USA took on the initiative to promote Lauren's Promise considering the third anniversary of Lauren's death approaching, a recent reported increase in domestic violence, and October being national domestic violence awareness month. This resolution clearly manifests USA's position on professors including Lauren's Promise in their syllabi and initiatives to enhance campus safety. This resolution provides direction and support for our related efforts on our specific campuses.

# The Associated Students of the University of Utah



2020-2021 Session  
Joint Resolution #6  
October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*Be it decided by the Legislative Student Body Representatives, having been brought to the floor by Senate Sponsor Jessica Wojciechowski and Assembly Sponsor Emily Pellegrino,*

*a*

## **JOINT RESOLUTION:**

Let Her Light Shine: A Day of Memoriam for Lauren McCluskey and Other Students Victim to Domestic Violence

**WHEREAS**, On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 a fellow student on the University of Utah campus was tragically murdered due to relationship violence. Despite 20+ phone calls<sup>1</sup> regarding relationship harassment and violence to campus and city authorities, and inappropriate handling of evidence involving explicit photo sharing to uninvolved parties<sup>2</sup>, Lauren's murder was not prevented. Since this tragedy, 30 recommendations<sup>3</sup> were suggested by the independent review team who assessed Lauren's death.

**WHEREAS**, Jill McCluskey, Lauren's mother, who serves as a Director and Professor at Washington State University, advocated for all professors to include a statement on their syllabi indicating that professors will be there for students in whatever capacity the student needs them. Professors across Washington State University have adopted Laurens Promise which reads, "I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you." The response is typically followed by university and emergency resources that the student can also utilize.

**WHEREAS**, Lauren's promise has been adopted at over 60 accredited universities, including the super-majority of the PAC-12<sup>4</sup>.

**WHEREAS**, Washington State University Student Representatives have located complimentary and supporting evidence stating the following<sup>5</sup>: "About 5.1 million women have experienced stalking over the previous year, according to a Center for Disease Control [study](#)<sup>6</sup>. A [report](#)<sup>7</sup> in from the National Institute of Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 81 percent of women who

experienced stalking were also physically assaulted. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) [blog post](#)<sup>8</sup> found that 54 percent of femicide victims who were killed by their stalkers had gone to the police to report being stalked. Femicide is the killing of a woman, in particular by a man and on account of her gender. NCADV also reported that 76 percent of women who had been murdered by an intimate partner had been stalked first, and 85 percent of women that had survived murder attempts had previously been stalked.”

**WHEREAS**, most University of Utah course syllabi currently have a University Safety Statement which states the following<sup>9</sup>:

“The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available ongoing professional development resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).”

**WHEREAS**, members of the Student Body at the University of Utah have indicated discomfort when interacting and/or relying on police following local<sup>10</sup> and national events<sup>11</sup>, especially those that have taken place involving fellow University of Utah students. Students may also find more comfort in approaching less authoritative figures.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the 2020-2021 Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU) that the following recommendations be implemented by the University of Utah administration:

1. All University of Utah members and affiliates wielding syllabi, or campus resources, shall be given the option to incorporate Lauren’s Promise on course syllabi and resource lists should they choose to do so.
  - a. Laurens Promise:

“The following statement discusses interpersonal violence that has occurred on our campus and resources available. It may evoke feelings of distress or past trauma by individuals who have experienced situations involving interpersonal violence. We wanted to acknowledge as well that this situation does not describe every victim’s experience and certain communities may be at a higher risk for these experiences.

**Lauren’s Promise—I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.**

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah campus. *We must all take actions to ensure that this never happens again.*

If you are in urgent need of support, call 911 and/or the Utah crisis line at 800.273.8255.

If you are experiencing interpersonal violence, sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking, please report it to me and I can connect you to resources. **Here are additional sources of support and help:**

Resource	Phone #	Hours	Affiliation
McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention:	TBD	TBD	University
Center for Student Wellness, Victim Survivor Advocate:	801.581.7776	8-5	University
Office of Equal Opportunity:	801.581.8365	9-5	University
University Department of Public Safety:	801.585.2677	24 hrs	University
University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute	801.587.3000	24 hrs	University
Utah Domestic Violence Coalition:	800.897.5465	24 hrs	State
Rape Recovery Center 24-hour Crisis Line:	801.467.7273	24 hrs	State
Domestic Violence Link Line:	800.897.5465	24 hrs	State
Stalking Helpline:	800.621.4673	24 hrs	State
Rape Recovery Center Crisis Line:	801.467.7272	24 hrs	State

Mandatory reporters are university employees, including students in paid leadership positions, who are required to report sexual misconduct to the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action per university regulations<sup>12</sup>. Examples of mandatory reporters include:

- Professors and other faculty
- Administration and staff (non-mental health)
- Resident advisors
- Student employees
- Campus police or campus security officials
- Athletic coaches/assistants

Confidential resources are employees not required to report any identifying information regarding an incident of sexual violence to the university. Survivors of sexual misconduct can speak openly to confidential resources about their experiences without their names or extensive details about their experience being reported to the Title IX coordinator or law enforcement<sup>13</sup>.

- University Counseling Center:
- University Hospitals Chaplin
- Student Athlete Support Services
- Center for Student Wellness Victim Advocates
- Women’s Resource Center”.

2. Annually, a survey will be issued to University instructors and campus departments/resources by the McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention asking if they have chosen to take on Lauren’s Promise, whether or not they feel the desire to partake in

additional interpersonal violence trainings to better equip them for potential interactions with students in these situations, and if they consent to being listed as a university-wide resource for students to turn to if they need assistance with interpersonal violence situations.

b. Qualtrics Survey:

“This survey is meant to create a comprehensive list of individuals who are willing to integrate Lauren’s Promise into their syllabus or campus resources by listening to students if they say someone is threatening them while also gathering individuals who would be interested in trainings to improve their response to interpersonal violence. You may or may not take this survey, but participation is encouraged on behalf of the Associated Students of the University of Utah.

Q1: Did you include “Lauren’s Promise” (or a version of the statement) on your syllabus or post “Lauren’s Promise” in your department? (Y/N) \*link to something that describes Lauren’s Promise; make question required response

Q2: Would you like to give additional rationale to why you did or did not include the statement? \* make optional response

Q3: If trainings regarding interpersonal violence occurs, would you feel the desire to attend them? (Y/N/Unsure) \*make required response

Q4: Would you like your name to be included in a campus-wide community list for students to know that you are someone who is willing to help them in the case of an interpersonal violence situation? (Y/N/Unsure- I would like someone to reach out with more information) \*required question”

3. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> for all years to come, University of Utah members and/or affiliates should wear purple in show of support for Lauren, and Domestic Violence Awareness month.
4. Leading up to October, for all years to come, ASUU will collaborate with the Lauren McCluskey Foundation to host an event(s) in commemoration of Lauren McCluskey and support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM).
5. Leading up to September, for all years to come, ASUU will collaborate with the Lauren McCluskey Foundation to promote the annual Lauren McCluskey Run for Campus Safety within the ASUU Presidency.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that upon the passage of this resolution, ASUU will distribute this resolution to following offices parties within 30 days:

- o The Office of the President;

- The McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention;
- The University of Utah Athletics Department;
- The Office of the Dean of Students;
- The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion;
- The Director of Student Leadership and Involvement;
- The University of Utah Alumni Association;
- The University of Utah Board of Trustees;
- The Utah Board of Higher Education;
- The Associate Vice President of Faculty;
- The University Police Department;
- The Center for Student Wellness;
- University Marketing and Communications;
- The Center for Ethnic Student Affairs (CESA)
- The Office of Equal Opportunity;
- The Office of Housing and Residential Education;
- The Black Cultural Center (BCC);
- The Utah Student Association (USA)
- Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life;
- The Dean’s Office for all 18 colleges at the University of Utah;
  - College of Architecture and Planning- Keith Diaz Moore;
  - David Eccles School of Business- Taylor Randall;
  - College of Education- Nancy Songer;
  - College of Engineering- Richard B. Brown;
  - College of Fine Arts- John Scheib;
  - Graduate School- David B. Kieda;
  - Honors College- Sylvia Torti;
  - College of Humanities- Stuart Culver;
  - College of Law- Elizabeth Kronk Warner;
  - College of Mines and Earth Sciences- Darryl Butt;
  - College of Science-Henry White;
  - College of Social and Behavioral Science-Cynthia Berg;
  - College of Social Work-Martell Teasley;
  - Undergraduate Studies-Martha Bradley;
  - School of Medicine-Wayne Samuelson;
  - College of Health-David Perrin;
  - College of Nursing-Barbara Wilson;
  - College of Pharmacy-Randall Peterson;
  - School of Dentistry-Wyatt Hume;

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT** that upon passage, this legislation is brought forth in Academic Senate for approval.

## References:

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2. <https://time.com/5877733/utah-police-officer-fired-miguel-deras-lauren-mccluskey-university-of-utah/>
3. <https://safeu.utah.edu/recommendations/>
4. <https://twitter.com/jjmccluskey/status/1318242775607902209?s=21>
5. <https://dailyevergreen.com/67488/news/aswsu-approves-laurens-promise/>
6. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6308a1.htm>
7. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/169592.pdf>
8. <https://ncadv.org/blog/posts/quick-guide-to-stalking-16-important-statistics-and-what-you-can-do-about-it>
9. [https://cmes.utah.edu/semester-guidelines/universypolicies/CMES\\_FALL2020\\_University\\_Policies\\_Support\\_Services\\_08092020.pdf](https://cmes.utah.edu/semester-guidelines/universypolicies/CMES_FALL2020_University_Policies_Support_Services_08092020.pdf)
10. <https://dailyutahchronicle.com/2020/07/23/joint-resolution-2-passes-unanimously-in-the-asuu-assembly-after-black-students-at-the-u-share-personal-experiences-with-racism-on-campus/>
11. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html>
12. <https://sexualassault.utah.edu/reporting/mandatory-reporters/#:~:text=CSAs%20are%20required%20to%20report,Affirmative%20Action%20per%20university%20regulations>
13. <https://sexualassault.utah.edu/reporting/confidential-reporting/>