Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON’S PREPAREDNESS IN THE EVENT OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

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WHEREAS school shootings have become tragically visible realities in America’s educational sphere; and

WHEREAS all members of the University of Washington community have the right to feel safe and informed in the event that an incident occurs; and

WHEREAS the University of Washington’s current active shooter prevention and preparedness communications, while well-intentioned, are sporadically designed, implemented, disseminated and reinforced to the University community; and

WHEREAS the aforementioned problems can be addressed with a coordinated communicative effort including new student and staff orientation and campus-wide email and the University of Washington’s “Panopto” software (which contains the needed technology to enable an improved informative effort); and

WHEREAS employing the aforementioned methods in an opt-in manner will enable the information to be both effectively and diplomatically conveyed to the University of Washington community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

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1 High-profile school shooting incidents include: The Columbine High School Massacre, the Virginia Tech Massacre, the fatal shooting of kindergarteners in Newtown, CT, the very recent fatal shooting at Umpqua Community College (Oregon), the fatal shooting at Marysville-Pilchuck High School, and the fatal shooting at Seattle Pacific University (these examples, which are far from exhaustive, are listed owing to the particularly high level of media coverage they received or because of their proximity to the University of Washington).

2 For example, The Active Shooter Guide can only be located through substantial navigation of the UW website.

3 Panopto is a platform which can be used to generate lecture-style videos, along with the necessary data for “hardcopy” of its content.
THAT this body suggests an informative, safety-inclusive, video (or other mode of communication) be generated in a coordinated effort between student leaders and other members of the University of Washington community, including administration. One possible communication sequence might⁴ be an informative three-episode Panopto series be created to include: 1) escape, evade, and engage strategies during an active shooter incident, 2) safety recommendations in the immediate aftermath of an active shooter incident, and 3) information regarding pathways to post-incident counseling on University of Washington campuses; and

THAT, (assuming the above approach is implemented), print material outlining the information presented in the three-episode series be generated and available in PDF format on the University of Washington Campus Safety and Community Resources webpage under Active Shooter information; and

THAT this three-episode series and the print materials, or the alternatively-agreed upon communications, be available and strongly endorsed at all new student, faculty, and staff orientations and trainings; and

THAT this three-episode series and the print materials, or the alternatively-agreed upon communications be available online to all University of Washington students, faculty, and staff in an exclusively opt-in format; and

THAT this three-episode series or the alternatively-agreed upon communications be disseminated to all current students, faculty, and staff each year to reinforce the aforementioned measures; and

THAT a disclaimer about graphic and potentially disturbing content be included with the dissemination of the aforementioned information (in the event that the communication’s producers deem such a disclaimer necessary); and

THAT the aforementioned information’s content be decided upon, developed, and implemented by a joint task force introduced into the University of Washington Community by the Graduate and Professional Student Senate. This joint task force will consist of two groups: One will be a student group (piloted by Senator Giuliana Conti⁵ and in extensive collaboration with the Graduate School of the University of Washington, the Associated Students of the University of Washington, and through in-depth consultation with SafeCampus, law enforcement and assorted academic experts). The other collective already essentially undertaken by administration is

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⁴ The Graduate and Professional Student Senate stresses that we have articulated this particular video in order to be constructively illustrative of one legitimate possibility, rather than to dictate to administration.
⁵ Or another senator, to be selected by the Vice-President of Internal Affairs, in the event that Senator Conti is unavailable.
constituted at their complete discretion. The two groups will endeavor to create mutually-
acceptable Active Shooter Preparedness Communications; and

THAT the Campus Safety and Emergency Resources section of the University of Washington
website be organized by priority for ease of navigation and information dissemination; and

THAT this measure be seen as a contribution to an overarching movement toward dialogues on
creating a safer and more informed University of Washington community; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to University of Washington President Ana Mari
Cauce, Graduate and Professional Student Senate President Alex Bolton, Associated Students of
the University of Washington President Tyler Wu, Daily Editor-in-Chief Kathryn Altena, and
other recipients deemed appropriate by these recipients (at their request).

Presented to GPSS for approval on December 2, 2015
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6 Suggestions for additional action on the part of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate include resolutions
encouraging the improvement of access to “UW Alert” via text message, focus group-based research to determine
the success of this resolution, and the development of interactive software for enhancing the informational delivery
detailed within. Other possibilities include forums and other communicative arenas for discussions on gun
policy.