

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
S.R. 3**

Fall 2019

October 7, 2019	Introduced by Senator Niko Battle of the Academic Committee
October 7, 2019	Passed/Rejected by the Academic Committee
October 7, 2019	Submitted to the Speaker of the House
October 7, 2019	Messaged to the Senate
October 8, 2019	Resolution was tabled by the Senate

**Protecting Our Livelihoods from Instances of Campus Endangerment
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS: On September 10th and 11th, 2019, emails were sent to seven individuals and five offices on campus, reflecting specific knowledge of our campus and many people on it with the intent to target and illicit fear, and;

WHEREAS: Students were not officially informed of the events and potentially existentially dangerous atmosphere until September 19, 2019, which was more than one week after the University first became aware, and;

WHEREAS: Articles published in *The Washington Post* and other secondary news sources explained more about the events that unfolded in relation to the hateful emails than the University's own internal communications to most students on campus, and;

WHEREAS: The Wake Forest University administration's initial response was to deny any real threat while increasing the presence of armed University Police around campus in front of multiple classes and academic buildings, and;

WHEREAS: The Wake Forest University Student Government recognizes that criticism of the institution of policing is not the same as disdain for any individual police officer or other forms of authority either on- or off-campus, and;

WHEREAS: Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, students are protected from discrimination based on their race, color, or national origin at federally funded post-secondary educational institutions, and;

WHEREAS: The institution of policing has a long history rooted in anti-Blackness, LGBTQ discrimination, and many other forms of discrimination that contribute to a broad sense of distrust and insecurity for some students on campus, and;

WHEREAS: Recent research from Rutgers University-Newark confirms that dying by police use of force remains discriminatory and excessive use of force is a leading cause of death for young men in America, especially Black and Brown men, which represents a portion, albeit a small one, of our student body, and;

WHEREAS: The auras of racial anxiety created by both the emails themselves and the subsequent increase of police presence on-campus can be detrimental to a student's ability to focus on attaining academic success, and;

WHEREAS: The Wake Forest University Student Government can play an essential role in assisting the administration with diverse, bold, and modern perspectives when responding to bigotry and threats on campus like the aforementioned emails;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Wake Forest University Student Government that:

1. The Wake Forest University Student Government recognizes that acts of bigotry and a relationship of institutional distrust and insecurity around armed police officers are present both nationally and on our campus. Therefore, we unequivocally officially condemn the University's increasing of police presence, without more student involvement in the decision-making process, on-campus as an apparent first and default response to bigoted emails sent out to terrorize already marginalized campus populations.
2. As the representatives of the entire Student Body, the Wake Forest University Student Government shall be allies of student communities who were targeted in the emails and who have historically been oppressed by the institution of policing, by pledging to actively seek open lines of communication with the leaders of the organized diverse communities on issues pertaining to their constituency, as well as distribute this Resolution to the Offices of the Provost, the President, the Vice President for Campus Life, the Dean of the College, the Dean of the School of Law, the Dean of the School of Business, the Dean of the School of Divinity, the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, and the University Police;
3. The Wake Forest University Student Government is encouraged to meet with school administrators to:
 - lobby for the establishment of a cooperative committee for rapid response to racial tensions on campus that includes Student Government leaders and seeks to maximize communication between administrators and students.
 - support Information Systems (IS) in advocating for the creation of an improved system for notifying students and/or faculty if/when hate mail or any other bigoted messages is removed from inboxes, allowing for them to view said email at another time and location.
 - request that time and funding be allocated to include more research into the full history of policing at Wake Forest University and the Winston-Salem community as a part of the University's Slavery, Race and Memory project.

Submitted in Solidarity,
Niko Battle
Academic Committee