

Chair Barbara Smith Warner, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Holvey, and Rules Committee Members,

**As a faculty member at Willamette University, I write to support the -18 amendment on SB554.** Administrators, faculty, and staff are responsible for the safety of Willamette University students but there is little we can do without support from the City of Salem and the State. Willamette University students have been terrorized by armed protestors on the state capitol grounds and nearby parks.

When students are scared, they cannot focus on their school work, and they cannot learn. Students of color are particularly affected. If they live on campus, which is required for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students, students of color are expected to stay in their rooms during protests. This might mean missing a class, campus job, or being unable to visit the library or grocery store. This short-term solution is not good for student mental health, it makes them feel unsupported like we are blaming the victim. We need a broader solution to help students feel safe.

Willamette University has unique challenges because of our proximity to the state capitol. If there's a suspicious package at the capitol or court house, university students also shelter in place. **As legislators consider protecting public buildings, please do not leave us out. Voting yes on the -18 amendment would go a long way toward protecting and supporting students, particularly students of color, at Willamette University.**

Willamette University students routinely get emails like this:

*Dear Community,*

*3/28/2021 Email*

*As we noted in an email last Thursday, there is activity at the State Capitol today involving members of the Patriot Prayer group and groups with opposing views. We are providing an update of today's activity so you can be aware and make informed decisions about your travel through the area.*

*We received an alert that there are about 150-200 armed participants on the north side of the capitol and that opposing protestors are expected to arrive soon. The activity has been contained to the north side of the capitol. We encourage you to avoid the area.*

*We have additional security on campus and continue to monitor the area. We will let you know if there are any changes that you should be aware of.*

*As a reminder, weapons and outside protesters are not allowed on the Willamette campus. If you observe anyone with a weapon, do not approach them. If you have concerns or are in need of assistance, call Campus Safety at 503-370-6911.*

*Be safe and well,*

*Lisa Landreman*

Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students

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Dear Community,

3/5/2021 Email

As the weekend is upon us, I wanted to provide information in support of the many concerns that members of the community have expressed about safety in light of the racist violence enacted on one of our students earlier this week.

It is understandable that an event like this, that happened so close to campus, would elevate concerns for students' safety. It is important to acknowledge that this is not the first time that people have been feeling unsafe. For BIPOC individuals safety is something not felt for a long time, or perhaps ever.

We have often expressed how living and working across from the Capitol brings both opportunities and challenges by providing a front row seat to watching the democratic process in action. However, this year is different from other years. The political polarization and the racialized rhetoric has become more intense and the activism at the Capitol more dangerous in tone and more extreme.

This heightened threat of violence in the country and at the Capitol have led to concerns and fears. As a result, we provide the following information.

### **Ride and Escort Services**

#### **Student Organized Rides**

We understand that students have organized mutual aid ride sharing that has been advertised on Instagram and other social media sites. This is a wonderful testament to the resourcefulness and care of the student body. In addition to these options we want to remind you of some university supported options.

#### **Campus Safety**

Campus Safety is available for walking escorts across campus as well as rides as needed, 24/7, when the destination is within a few blocks of campus.

**Safe Ride** is a ride program developed years ago by ASWU that has become a program operated by Campus Safety in partnership with Willamette Valley Yellow Cab. This program has, in the past, allowed students to call Yellow Cab and have the ride billed to their student account. Because of the extraordinary circumstances this year, Willamette will cover the cost of the cab ride. In order to make sure that this program can be sustained through the end of the semester, we encourage you to limit use of this program for times you are traveling solo to a destination within the immediate Salem area.

To use SAFE RIDE:

- Call Yellow Cab at (503)-362-241.

Tell the dispatcher you are using SAFE RIDE.

- Show the driver your valid Compass Card. The driver will enter your name and ID number on a SAFE RIDE form.
- When you arrive, fill out the bottom portion of the form, sign it, and return it to the driver.

#### **Safety Tips**

We can't say enough that the solution to ending violence does not rest with those who have experienced the violence. However, many have asked for us to share some safety reminders:

- Avoid walking alone at night. Ask a friend or call campus safety for an escort or use Safe Ride if needed.
- When you are on campus, know where emergency telephones are along your route. Here's a [map](#).
- Pay attention to your surroundings. Walk briskly.
- Have your key ready before getting to the door.
- Visually check inside, around and under your car before getting in, then lock all doors and roll up windows.

**Future Plans**

As President Thorsett shared in this week's Words from Waller, we are exploring opportunities to connect the Willamette community and leaders in the Salem community to come together to engage in important conversations about racism and to begin to develop collective strategies for action. Students, staff, and faculty have begun planning for this event, and more information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Peace,

Lisa Landreman

Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students

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11/7/2021 Email

We have learned that there will be a Pro-Trump rally at the Capitol beginning at 12 noon today. While there are no indications that there will be any kind of problematic behavior, we do know that emotions are running high for many people. Please be cautious if you are on campus today. Consider avoiding the north side of campus near the Capitol and report any trespassers or suspicious behavior to Campus Safety immediately. Contact Campus Safety at 503-370-6911.

Ross Stout

Campus Safety

Dear Willamette community,

9/8/2020

As President Thorsett just shared, we have reached out to the students who we were made aware were harmed in yesterday's protest by the Proud Boys, a far-right organization that admits only men and whose mission is to spread an "anti-political correctness" and "anti-white guilt" agenda. They have been known to promote and engage in political violence and have been classified as a [hate group](#) by the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#). If you or anyone you know was harmed in this event, please let us know so that we can offer resources and support. We did not have advance notice of these events. Had we known we would have notified the community and shared precautionary information, as we understand the traumatic impact these groups and their hateful messages have on the members of our community and the safety risk they presented. If at any time you are concerned about activity on campus by these or other groups please contact Campus Safety at (503) 370-6911.

As our nation continues to reckon with systemic racism and grieves the tragic and

senseless deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Daniel Prude and countless others, we anticipate that demonstrations, rallies, and protests will likely increase--particularly against the backdrop of the coming election. Our mission calls us to face these atrocities with appropriate action, authentic commitment, and the courage to stand for what is right. Our close location to the State Capitol provides our community with the benefits and challenges of witnessing and participating in the democratic freedoms of free speech and political assembly. The call to engage in social change efforts is complicated by the compounding impact of COVID and the presence of weapons and violent tactics known to be employed by some groups present at these events.

We offer the information below to support members of our community in making their own informed, personal decisions for how to engage in actions to support needed systemic changes.

Here are some tips for how to [oppose white supremacists safely and effectively](#).

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In Solidarity,

Lisa Landreman

*Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*

Jade Aguilar

*Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion*

Karen Wood

*University Chaplain*

I do not want emails like this to define the future of student safety on campus. Please vote yes on the -18 amendment for SB554 and support the bill itself.

Sincerely,



Janet A. Lorenzen

Associate Professor of Sociology

Willamette University

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