

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: Janet Badia, Ann Livschiz, Steven Carr

DATE: 1/25/21

SUBJ: Senate Oversight in Abuse Allegations Against Coach Nelson

WHEREAS, the article in *Indianapolis Star* on January 20, 2021 and the slow trickle of additional information reveal serious allegations of abuse by Coach Nelson and failures by the university to protect members of the university community;

WHEREAS, evidence in the article suggests the university may have engaged in cover up of the abuse, discreditation of the victims, and coercion of possible victims;

WHEREAS, allegations detailed in the *Indianapolis Star* report suggest that the investigation that was carried out by the university was inadequate;

WHEREAS, the FW Senate has a responsibility to protect PFW staff and students from mistreatment and injustice;

WHEREAS, the FW Senate has a responsibility to ensure that PFW's policies and procedures are followed and applied fairly and consistently;

WHEREAS, a proper and truly independent investigation is necessary, though it may take time to properly organize;

WHEREAS, PFW chapter of AAUP issued a statement on 1/21/21, outlining suggested steps that need to be taken on this matter;

WHEREAS, as long as Coach Nelson, who has serious allegations of abuse against her, and others in positions of power at PFW who may have helped cover up her abuses continue to have power over the young women on or affiliated with the women's basketball team;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the FW Senate immediately sets up an ad hoc Senate committee that will be responsible for fielding confidential reports from athletes while the FW Senate sets up its independent investigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this ad hoc Senate committee does not include any current or past members of the Mastodon Athletics Advisory Subcommittee to ensure impartiality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that contact information for members of this ad hoc Senate committee will be made available to all student athletes at PFW; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FW Senate take the necessary steps to set up or participate in an independent investigation, ensuring that the people involved in the first version of the investigation are not allowed to be voting members of the investigative team; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Senate takes AAUP's suggestion to "conduct an internal investigation led by an independent committee composed of a majority of faculty and academic administrators, and chaired by a faculty member elected by the Faculty Senate. The charge of this committee will be to examine the manner in which the university handled these allegations initially, how it reached its decision to reinstate the women's basketball coach, and whether the university followed its own internal policies as well as those of Purdue University in the handling of both the allegations as well as the investigation;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the university administration and all athletics staff, including the Chancellor and Athletic Director, make clear to the students that the university does not tolerate retaliation and will protect all students and staff who participate in the investigation by ensuring that all allegations of retaliation will be investigated thoroughly.