West Virginia University  
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association  
Assembly Proclamation: AP-2020-02

Title: A STATEMENT REGARDING THE ROCKSLIDE INCIDENT ON  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short Title:</th>
<th>ROCKSLIDE INCIDENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author:</td>
<td>Victoria Teufel, Senator</td>
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<td>Nick Shoemaker, College Senator (Statler)</td>
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<td>Sponsor(s):</td>
<td>Myya Helm, Senator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dominic Cunningham, Senator</td>
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<td>Hali Stuck, Senator</td>
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<td>Amelia Jones, Senator</td>
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<td>First Reading Date</td>
<td>2-19-2020</td>
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Whereas, the West Virginia University Student Government Association Mission Statement states that SGA desires to “ensure that the personal freedoms and general welfare of the students within our University are protected”; and

Whereas, 10 individuals were victim to the rockslide which took place on Monday, February 10, 2020; and

Whereas, 9 of those individuals were students traveling on the Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) when the incident occurred²; and

Whereas, one of those individuals was a local Morgantown resident traveling by car on Monongahela Boulevard when the incident occurred²; and

Whereas, The West Virginia University Police Report (Case 20-00677) stated that, “The driver of the Hyundai Accent bearing WV registration 3UA336 was transported by Emergency Medical Service to the Ruby Memorial Hospital and also two of the individuals from the PRT were transported by Emergency Medical Service to Ruby Memorial Hospital. After checking on all individuals from the PRT on their condition, all of them were cleared by Emergency Medical Service.”¹; and

¹ Where the West Virginia University Police Department is responsible for public safety and security on all university campuses.
² PRT is the Personal Rapid Transit system, a shuttle service used by students and faculty to travel around the campus.
³ WV registration signifies that the vehicle is registered in West Virginia.
Whereas, West Virginia University released an informational statement, at 4:52 p.m., to all students and faculty on the day of the incident, as well an updated statement at 7:44 p.m. that evening; and

Whereas, West Virginia University made every effort to inform students of alternate transportation options and further safety information; and

Whereas, referenced by The Center for Treatment of Anxiety and Mood Disorders, “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can develop after a person has been exposed to a terrifying event or has been through an ordeal in which intense physical harm occurred or was threatened. Sufferers of this PTSD have persistent and frightening thoughts and memories of this ordeal” ⁴; and

Whereas, referenced by The Center for Treatment of Anxiety and Mood Disorders, “trauma can be defined as a psychological, emotional response to an event or an experience that is deeply distressing or disturbing. When loosely applied, this trauma definition can refer to something upsetting, such as being involved in an accident, having an illness or injury, losing a loved one, or going through a divorce” ⁴; and

Whereas, referenced by the Treatment and Services Adaptation Center, “Symptoms resulting from trauma can directly impact a student’s ability to learn. Students might be distracted by intrusive thoughts about the event that prevent them from paying attention in class, studying, or doing well on a test” ⁵; and

Whereas, Emeritus Professor of Geology and Geography, Steven Kite, of the WVU Department of Geology and Geography recently informed The Daily Athenaeum that the hillside where the incident occurred has “instability that has never come to an equilibrium.”³; and

Whereas, The Daily Athenaeum published an article that discussed how “Rock slides on Monongahela Boulevard have been a problem for decades.”³

Therefore, be it proclaimed by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University that:

Section 1: The West Virginia University Student Government Association shows its full support for the victims of this incident and wishes quick recoveries for those who were injured.

Section 2: The West Virginia University Student Government Association encourages all students, who feel as if this incident has infringed upon their mental health, to seek counseling services at the Carruth Center.
Section 3: The West Virginia University Student Government Association urges West Virginia University and the West Virginia Department of Transportation’s Division of Highways to collaborate immediately to implement permanent solutions to ensure the protection of WVU students and Morgantown residents in the event of future rockslides on Monongahela Boulevard.

Section 4: Upon passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

- G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
- Rob Alsop, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives
- John Campo, M.D., Interim Director, Carruth Center
- T. Anne Hawkins, Ph.D, Clinical Director/Associate Director, Carruth Center
- Clement Solomon, Director (WVU Department of Transportation and Parking)
- Jeremy Evans, Associate Director (WVU Personal Rapid Transit)
- Clayton Darby, District Engineer/Manager (West Virginia Department of Transportation - Division of Highways - District Four) (Clayton.J.Darby@wv.gov)
- Tracy Jackson, Administrative Secretary (West Virginia Department of Transportation - Division of Highways - District Four) (Tracy.C.Jackson@wv.gov)
- West Virginia University Campus Police Department
- Morgantown Police Department
- Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
- Daily Athenaeum
- The Dominion Post
- Kate Dye, Student Body President
References

1. https://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/thedaonline.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/7/d1/7d1b1e2e-513d-11ea-a291-33125babd272/5e4a15bcc3d64.pdf.pdf
5. https://traumaawareschools.org/impact