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Respect for Diversity Resolution

USM Faculty Senate

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION #6, 2014-2015

Authored by: Dr. Susan Hrostowski, Welfare Committee Chair

Co-authored by: Drs. Dori Griffin and SatAnada Hayden

Introduced by: **Faculty Senate Committee: Welfare and Environmental Concerns**

A FACULTY SENATE resolution in support of **respect for diversity**.

WHEREAS, University Policy PRES-AA-005 states “The University of Southern Mississippi offers to all persons equal access to educational, programmatic and employment opportunities without regard to age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy, gender identity, genetic information, religion, race, color, national origin, and/or veteran status pursuant to applicable federal and state law,” and,

WHEREAS, a recent report of the Research Initiative on Social Justice and Equality (RISE) regarding the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index found that “The present results make clear that LGBTQ students at USM do not find themselves subject to a supportive and inclusive environment. They are almost twice as likely to become the victim of assault or harassment on campus as their counterparts. They report hearing negative comments from staff, administrators, and other students more often than their counterparts. They witness threatening behavior more often, particularly with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity,”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, FACULTY SENATE concurs with the Gulf Coast Campus’ Faculty Council in supporting the recommendations made in their letter to President Bennett on February 2, 2015; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, FACULTY SENATE supports the application of Policy PRES-AA-005 by holding all University of Southern Mississippi faculty, staff, and students responsible for upholding said policy in all University interactions and relationships.