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Tolerance resolution

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the University of Mississippi is committed to the principle of “respecting the dignity of each person;” (Creed)

WHEREAS, “the University is a place where equal opportunity for faculty, staff and students is welcomed and embraced both in spirit and in law” and students at the University of Mississippi “are free to pursue their educational goals and have opportunities for learning inside and outside the classroom without being subject to discrimination;” (M-Book)

WHEREAS, students and student organizations at the University of Mississippi are voluntary members of this community and are encouraged to embrace the University’s commitment to diversity and tolerance, and actions in conflict with these values may be subject to disciplinary procedures, including expulsion from the University;

WHEREAS, the University of Mississippi’s Judicial Council recently found members of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity guilty of assault and harassment against an African American student in which said assault and harassment included racially offensive and unacceptable remarks;

WHEREAS, the University of Mississippi has experienced numerous incidents involving racial discrimination on this campus in the past twenty years;

WHEREAS, the University of Mississippi, in particular, bears a special responsibility to take proactive measures against such behavior because of its unique place in history as an institution that has fought to overcome the historical legacy of racial separation and discrimination;

WHEREAS, the University of Mississippi will not tolerate acts of racial discrimination on this campus;


WE, THE FACULTY SENATE, DO HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

1. Express our collective regret that members of our University of Mississippi community have been subjected to hostile expressions of racist beliefs and racially discriminatory actions.
2. Express our concern and sympathy for those members of our community who have been injured or victimized by these expressions of racial hostility.
3. Support the decision of the Chancellor and the University Judicial Council in holding members of the DKE fraternal organization accountable for their actions. The Faculty of the University of Mississippi stand firmly committed to the principle that discriminatory behavior will not be tolerated among members of this University community.
4. Recommend to the Chancellor’s Standing Committee on Sensitivity and Respect that it explore the deeper institutional and structural reasons behind such behavior, whether it concern racial or other types of discrimination. We are concerned about persistent patterns of social segregation by race at the University of Mississippi, particularly among student organizations.

5. Reinforce our belief that any patterns of intolerance or racial segregation must be addressed if we hope to move forward as a “community of learning dedicated to nurturing excellence in intellectual inquiry and personal character in an open and diverse environment.” (Creed)

RESOLVED, this the 12th day of October 2007.

THE SENATE OF THE FACULTY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.S. Williamson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John S. Williamson
CHAIR, University of Mississippi Senate of the Faculty