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Resolution on External Forces (2)

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DECEMBER 8, 2020

Whereas, several faculty colleagues have endured multiple attacks, including a call to fire a tenured faculty member and social media/email attacks on faculty members, by a variety of external forces during the Fall 2020 semester while upholding their responsibilities and obligations as University of Mississippi instructors and professors;

Whereas Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Accreditation Principles Section 4.2f explicitly states that, “The governing board protects the institution from undue influence by external persons or bodies”;

Whereas such intervention by a political entity resulted in the loss of the University of Mississippi’s accreditation in 1930;

Whereas the interference by external forces in the affairs of the University of Mississippi and its governing board (IHL) potentially disturbs the organizational policies and procedures of the institution to which IHL holds fiduciary responsibilities;

Whereas SACSCOC Accreditation Principles Section 4 states “Integral to strong governance is the absence of undue influence from external sources”; and

Whereas SACSCOC Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement Section 4.2b states,“ while the overall mission and overarching policies of the institution are approved by the board, the administration of and implementation of the general direction set by the board are carried out by the administration and faculty in order to prevent the board from undercutting the authority of the president and other members of the administration and faculty, thereby creating an unhealthy and unworkable governance structure”; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate respectfully calls upon Chancellor Glenn Boyce and the upper administration of the University of Mississippi to:

- reaffirm their commitment to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with respect to how the administration deals with the faculty who have been exposed to attack
- rebuff all attempts by any and all external forces which unduly attack the faculty and thereby distract from the mission of the University of Mississippi
- expeditiously make known their intention to take action with respect to faculty members.