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## Senate Resolution with Regard to Teaching on Social and Racial Justice at the University of Mississippi

University of Mississippi. Faculty Senate

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**WHEREAS** state legislative proposals are being introduced in Mississippi and across the United States that target academic discussions of racism and related issues in American history in schools, colleges and universities;

**WHEREAS** the UM Faculty Handbook affirms the importance of academic freedom to the proper functioning of universities, citing the American Association of University Professors' 1940 statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure;

**WHEREAS** faculty have responsibility for the curriculum at their universities, as stated in the AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities ("The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process"), and in the UM Faculty Handbook (p.13: "Curricular matters are approved by department faculty and college/school curriculum committees");

**WHEREAS** over seventy organizations, including the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU), issued the Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History (June 16, 2021) stating their "firm opposition to a spate of legislative proposals being introduced across the country that target academic lessons, presentations, and discussions of racism and related issues in American history in schools, colleges and universities . . .," and moreover that "in higher education, under principles of academic freedom that have been widely endorsed, professors are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject. Educators, not politicians, should make decisions about teaching and learning;"

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate of the Faculty of the University of Mississippi rejects any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to restrict or dictate university curriculum on any matter, and reaffirms the American Association of University Professors' 1940 statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate stands with our K-12 and community college colleagues in Mississippi and throughout the country who may be affected by this legislation when they merely seek to teach the truth in U.S. history and civics education;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Senate calls upon Chancellor Glenn Boyce and Provost Noel Wilkin to affirm that they reject and will resolutely resist any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to restrict or dictate university curriculum on any matter, including matters related to racial and social justice, and will stand firm against such encroachments;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Senate affirms the Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism, authored by the AAUP, PEN America, the American Historical Association, and the Association of American Colleges & Universities, endorsed by over seventy organizations, and issued on June 16, 2021.