

**RESOLUTION FROM THE TEACHING AND LEARNING COUNCIL
OF THE FACULTY SENATE
PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION AT A MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE TO BE HELD ON
NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

WHEREAS, under Article III, Section N of the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate, the Teaching and Learning Council of the Faculty Senate *“works to advance excellence in teaching and academic advising at UTK and areas of concern for the Teaching Council include incentives for recognizing quality instruction and advising, methods for improving instruction at a campus and departmental level, guidelines for routine and disciplinary evaluation of teaching, academic advising, and curriculum. For example, the Teaching Council examines policy issues related to teaching on the UTK campus and works with the chief academic officer to recognize excellence in teaching and advising. The Teaching Council works with the Center for Undergraduate Excellence to run a yearly campus-wide program that involves faculty and staff in addressing issues central to improving instruction and advising. The Teaching Council works with both the Graduate School and the Center for Undergraduate Excellence to develop practical means of improving and rewarding instruction and advising on campus;”* and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville actively supports equality of educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville is committed to creating a vibrant multicultural, multi-ethnic community where diverse students, faculty and staff are recruited and retained, and where diversity scholarship is valued; and

WHEREAS, the educational benefit of diversity and the importance of preparing students to live, work and lead in an increasingly diverse and global world is a primary goal of the faculty, staff and students at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville seeks to develop graduates who can effectively work across differences and who are prepared to live and work in a global society; and

WHEREAS, the Teaching and Learning Council wishes to call attention to the University of Tennessee’s identity as a richly diverse and inclusive land-grant university striving for excellence in a framework of academic freedom and respect; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate supports the University System-wide Diversity Statement approved in June 2014 and supports the University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion in its efforts to create an inclusive and diverse campus environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be disseminated to faculty, staff and students so that we may endorse by adding our signatures to the Resolution and thereby convey the commitment of the University's faculty, staff and students to the goals of 1) making the University of Tennessee-Knoxville a diverse and inclusive campus, as expressed in the University of Tennessee's Diversity Statement (below) and 2) publicizing this commitment by including the statement in all university publications where appropriate.

University of Tennessee's Diversity Statement

One of the principal missions of The University of Tennessee is to provide quality educational opportunities for the people of this state. One measure of the quality of an educational experience is the extent to which it enables the recipient to compete and be productive in society and contribute to the quality of life. The Board of Trustees recognizes that diversity in the educational environment, including an outstanding and diverse student body, faculty, and staff, and an environment conducive to learning, adds value to the educational experience and the degree earned. Interacting with people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives augments the curricular experience and affords every student the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to be a productive and contributing citizen of this state and nation, capable of competing in a global society. Thus, diversity is fundamental to a sound twenty-first century education.

The Board affirms the educational value of a diverse and fully inclusive campus community, one that is enriched by persons of different backgrounds, points of view, cultures, socioeconomic status, and other diverse characteristics. The Board expects the University to engage in a variety of initiatives to advance diversity in all aspects of University life.

Drafted by Faculty Senate Member, Karla McKanders, Associate Professor, College of Law & Laurie B. Knox Senior Lecturer in ESL & Linguistics