

## **Resolution Against Undue Influence on the University of Tennessee**

WHEREAS The University of Tennessee is managed through a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor; AND

WHEREAS officers of The University serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees; AND

WHEREAS The University of Tennessee is accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; AND

WHEREAS the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges states in *The Principles of Accreditation*, “The governing board of the institution is responsible for the selection and the periodic evaluation of the chief executive officer” (Sec. 3.2.1), and “The governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence” (Sec. 3.2.4); AND

WHEREAS The University of Tennessee, Knoxville has procedures, approved through the Board of Trustees, for the review and revision of policies and guidelines for the university community; AND

WHEREAS there have been recent public statements by members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation and the Tennessee State Legislative delegation urging that certain university administrators be removed from their offices; AND

WHEREAS such statements by legislators are not consistent with Board of Trustee processes to formulate, review, or revise University policies and guidelines, nor do such statements allow for a deliberative, civil, inclusive, and well informed discussion; AND

WHEREAS these public statements by members of the Tennessee State Legislative delegation have included threats to reduce funding for the University;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Faculty Senate asserts its support for any actions impacting general university policies, including those on diversity and inclusion, to be evaluated and assessed by the Board of Trustees per procedures already in place; AND

FURTHERMORE, the UTK Faculty Senate petitions Governor Bill Haslam, in his role as Chair of the Board of Trustees for The University of Tennessee, to publicly assert his support for the processes and procedures already in place for managing the University as well as his support for the President of The University of Tennessee in conducting the business of the university free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies.