

## ***Faculty Senate Resolution on Diversity and Inclusion***

Whereas, “[i]n recent weeks, SMU students and others have been engaged in important discussions about instances of racial insensitivity and intolerance within our community,” (Message from SMU President R. Gerald Turner, Nov. 10, 2015), and

Whereas the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University “has among its principal concerns the preservation of academic freedom in the University community, the promotion of creative and responsible inquiry, thought, and expression in an atmosphere of scholarly excellence, and the protection of a vital balance among the various programs of the University, free of prejudice or undue partiality” (Faculty Senate Constitution, preamble), and

Whereas Southern Methodist University “is committed to policies and actions that assure and promote equality of access and opportunity” (SMU Antidiscrimination Policy), and

Whereas, a group of concerned members of the Black community at SMU recently presented President Turner with a Strategic Plan aimed at achieving “a truly welcoming climate at SMU where diversity is embraced and supported; and all students can succeed, be valued, and work as a community” (Strategic Plan for Improving the Black Student Experience, Nov. 16, 2015), and

Whereas, Black lives matter at Southern Methodist University, and the Faculty Senate is committed to fostering an atmosphere of scholarly excellence for all students, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of Southern Methodist University

- (A) pledges to support, in whatever tangible ways we can, the goal of creating a truly welcoming climate for all students at SMU, and
- (B) commits to working with SMU students to create a safe, diverse, and inclusive learning environment, and
- (C) requests the SMU administration to work with Black student leaders and others to ensure that our values of diversity and inclusion are put into practice.