

Res 2-16-S A Resolution to Outline the Recommended Qualities and Policies of the Tenth President of Western Kentucky University

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to endorse the outlined recommended qualities and policies that should be expected from the 10th president of Western Kentucky University.

WHEREAS: The current (9th) president of Western Kentucky University, Dr. Gary Ransdell, is set to retire June 30th, 2017, and

WHEREAS: The search for the 10th university president is currently underway, and

WHEREAS: It is imperative the Student Government Association, as the official voice of the student body, speak up for what the 10th president of Western Kentucky University should be committed to, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should be committed to prioritizing student, faculty, and staff interests, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should promote racial, ethnic, sexuality, gender, religious, and class diversity in the university structure in staffing, maintenance, faculty, the administration, and the student body, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should have a global awareness and a working knowledge of the countries of the international students who attend WKU and promote inclusion and integration between the international and domestic students on campus, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should be committed to providing and maintaining resource centers for marginalized student communities including but not limited to women, racial minorities, those on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum, indigenous students, students with disabilities, international students, and, graduate students, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should prioritize academics and continually strive to better the quality of education at the university, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should promote a culture of sustainability, supporting principles of ecological integrity, and social equity at

every opportunity in charting the future trajectory of WKU with a goal to improve our AASHE STARS silver rating to gold and then ultimately platinum, and to maintain our position as a leader in university sustainability, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should demonstrate a commitment to inclusivity and transparency as core values, which includes promoting consistent and rife institutional record keeping and facilitating public accessibility to these records as well as encouraging transparency with the students, faculty, and staff during the hiring process itself, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should maintain the university's current policy of allowing student-run media (such as but not limited to the Talisman and The Herald) to operate free of university oversight and reaffirm the same pledge Gary Ransdell made to the Society of Professional Journalists which designated student media "as public forums ... free from censorship and advance approval of content," and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should empower students, faculty, and staff to play a critical role in decision making at WKU—including creation of the budget—in an effort to cultivate a high standard of shared governance, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should acknowledge WKU's unfair historical treatment towards the Jonesville Community and acknowledge issues of expanding into lower income neighborhoods with university building projects and the negative effects that has on working and lower class families in the surrounding community, and

WHEREAS: The 10th president of Western Kentucky University should be committed to fostering a scholastic political community by having university sponsored voting registration and, if possible, a university designated polling station, and

WHEREAS: Whereas the 10th president of Western Kentucky University should uphold shared governance as a top priority and be mindful of an appropriate time for new leadership, taking into consideration the voices and interests of the students,

faculty, staff, and other administrators equally while deliberating what constitutes “appropriate.”

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University endorses these requirements for the tenth president of Western Kentucky University.

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