



5 December 2018

WHEREAS academic freedom is essential to the University of Mississippi's mission to "create, evaluate, share, and apply knowledge in a free, open, and inclusive environment of intellectual inquiry;" and

WHEREAS the University of Mississippi endorses the American Association of University Professors' 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure, which states "the common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition" and that academic freedom is "fundamental to the advancement of truth;" and

WHEREAS the Chancellor, who, as leader of the University, is presumed to speak for the University as a whole and commands the attention of a wide audience that is further expanded by the extensive reach of the internet and social media; and

WHEREAS the Chancellor published an editorial on October 11, 2018, questioning the methods employed by members of the University faculty whose credentials and expertise have been recognized by the University and whose research was approved by the Institutional Research Board; and

WHEREAS public statements of this sort have a chilling effect on intellectual inquiry and academic freedom on campus; and

WHEREAS the internet and social media create an instant platform for the widespread dispersal of public statements such as the Chancellor's and at the same time magnify the demands of self-appointed watchdogs external to the University; and

WHEREAS senior leadership at the University plays an essential role in defending academic freedom;

BE IT RESOLVED that, on behalf of the faculty of the University of Mississippi, the Faculty Senate reaffirms the necessity of academic freedom to the University's mission, upholds the 1940 "Statement of Principles," and encourages senior leadership to use their positions of authority judiciously, to generally refrain from questioning the credibility of faculty scholarship, and to recognize and mitigate against any and all threats to academic freedom.

THE SENATE OF THE FACULTY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brice Noonan', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Brice Noonan
Chair of the Faculty Senate

Faculty Senators

Jeff Pickerd, Accountancy	Phillis George, Higher Education	Meagen Rosenthal, Pharmacy Administration
Le'Trice Donaldson, African American Studies	Zachary Kagan Guthrie, History	Stuart Haines, Pharmacy Practice
Nancy Wicker, Art & Art History	Vivian Ibrahim, History	Fei Lan, Philosophy & Religion
Brice Noonan, Biology	April Holm, History	Breese Quinn, Physics & Astronomy
Brad Jones, Biology	Evangeline Robinson, Journalism	Susan Allen, Political Science
Cole Stevens, BioMolecular Sciences	Stacey Lantagne, Law	Marilyn Mendolia, Psychology
Brenda Prager, Chemical Engineering	Dennis Bunch, Leadership & Counselor Education	Kyle Fritz, Public Policy Leadership
Amal Dass, Chemistry & Biochemistry	Kimberly Kaiser, Legal Studies	Tess Lefmann, Social Work
Chris Mullen, Civil Engineering	Cecelia Parks, Library	Ana Velitchkova, Sociology & Anthropology
Aileen Ajootian, Classics	Kristin Rogers, Library	Simone Delerme, Sociology & Anthropology
Carolyn Higdon, Communication Sciences & Disorders	John Berns, Management	Roy Thurston, Teacher Education
Byung Jang, Computer & Information Science	Sumali Conlon, Management Information Systems	Andy Cheng, Teacher Education
Lei Cao, Electrical Engineering	Saim Kashmiri, Marketing	Laura Prior, Teacher Education
Beth Ann Fennelly, English	Jeremy Clark, Mathematics	René Pulliam, Theatre Arts
Cristie Ellis, English	Tejas Pandya, Mechanical Engineering	Stephen Monroe, Writing and Rhetoric
Matt Bondurant, English	Tamara Warhol, Modern Languages	Michael Barnett, Past-Chair
Kathleen Fuller, Finance	Corina Petrescu, Modern Languages	
Jennifer Gifford, Geology	Thomas Peattie, Music	
KoFan Lee, Health & Exercise Science	John Schuesselin, Music	
	Mary Roseman, Nutrition & Hospitality Management	
	Chalet Tan, Pharmaceuticals	