Motion on Tenure

Whereas the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG), at its meeting of October 13, 2021, effectively undermined academic freedom in Georgia by removing the procedural protections of tenure from the system post-tenure review policy, a weakening of tenure that distinguishes the USG from the vast majority of university systems nationwide,

Whereas the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), guardian of academic freedom in the United States, has therefore censured the University System of Georgia for its decision,

Whereas tenure is the basis for academic freedom, and its undermining by the USG as recognized by the AAUP, makes it difficult for faculty members to properly fulfill their core responsibilities to advance and transmit knowledge,

Whereas the changes from the Board of Regents make it more difficult for UGA's education and research to be competitive and thereby go against the best interests of our institution and of the state of Georgia,

Be it resolved:

While the Council applauds the efforts of the Faculty Affairs Committee, and of the ad hoc Committee to revise the Bylaws of the Faculty Post-Tenure Review Appeals Committee, to protect faculty given the changes mandated by the Board of Regents,

Nevertheless, the University Council recognizes that these revisions to UGA's Post-Tenure Review Policy, presented and passed at its meeting of September 28, 2022, were approved under duress as a necessary protection against arbitrary enforcement and do not represent the long-term interest of the institution and its faculty.

The University Council commits to the reversal of these changes as a long-term goal. Then only will it be possible for the AAUP to remove its justified censure of the USG, decided upon in March 2022.

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