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Commission's Resolution on the Inclusion of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in University Non-Discrimination Policy

The Commission for Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender People at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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Resolution of the
UT, Knoxville Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People

Whereas, in the increasingly competitive and diverse workforce and economy, recruiting the best faculty, students and staff require the University of Tennessee to be as an attractive opportunity as possible, and

Whereas, our peer institutions including the University of Florida, the University of Georgia, the University of Kentucky, the University of Maryland, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Virginia, Louisiana State University, North Carolina State University, and Virginia Polytechnic University as well as Southeastern Conference institutions including the University of Arkansas, the University of Mississippi, the University of South Carolina, Mississippi State University and Vanderbilt University, recognizing this competitive environment include sexual orientation in their formal hiring and personnel policies, and

Whereas, Tennessee Board of Regents institutions including East Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Pellissippi State Technical Community College, Roane State Community College and Volunteer State Community College include sexual orientation in their formal hiring and personnel policies, and

Whereas, sixty-one of sixty-two members of the Association of American Universities (AAU) include sexual orientation in their formal hiring and personnel policies, and

Whereas, the UT, Knoxville Faculty Senate on October 20, 2003, the UT, Knoxville Student Government Association on February 13, 2007, and the UT, Knoxville Graduate Student Senate in 1993, 2003 and on February 15, 2007, have passed resolutions supporting the inclusion of sexual orientation as a protected category in the University of Tennessee's personnel policies, and

Whereas, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender faculty, students and staff make outstanding contributions to the University of Tennessee's mission of instruction, research and service,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the UT, Knoxville Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People urge and strongly recommend that the University of Tennessee include sexual orientation and gender identity in its hiring and personnel policies and that sexual orientation and gender identity be recognized and treated in the same manner as other categories in the university's hiring and personnel policies.

Passed unanimously: 22 March 2007