

By: Senator(s) Harden, Brown, Jordan,
Williamson, Jackson (11th), Thomas, Simmons,
Butler, Walls, Frazier, Chaney, Carmichael,
Hyde-Smith, Jackson (15th), Lee (47th),
Clarke, Davis

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

1 A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
2 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO
3 DIRECT THE PRESIDENT OF MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN TO
4 MAINTAIN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CURRENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

5 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature created the Mississippi
6 University for Women (MUW) on March 12, 1884, the first public
7 college for women in America; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1988 the Board of Trustees of State Institutions
9 of Higher Learning reaffirmed the mission of MUW's quality
10 academic programs for all qualified students with emphasis on
11 distinctive opportunities for women; and

12 WHEREAS, thousands of women and men have graduated from MUW;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, for over 117 years the alumni of MUW have loyally
15 supported the university financially and with their time and
16 energy; and

17 WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
18 Higher Learning has mandated that all eight of Mississippi's
19 public universities enter into affiliation agreements with their
20 perspective alumni associations and further that such associations
21 would continue to be independent organizations; and

22 WHEREAS, the university has entered into an institution of
23 higher learning mandated affiliation agreement on October 25,
24 2006, with the MUW Alumni Association to govern the relationship
25 between the university and the association; and

26 WHEREAS, the Alumni Association has submitted bylaws for
27 review and approval and worked in good faith with the university;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, out of all eight public universities only the MUW
30 Alumni Association has been asked to give control of the election
31 of its officers to the Mississippi University for Women or their
32 affiliation agreement would be revoked; and

33 WHEREAS, the President of Mississippi University for Women
34 refuses to approve the bylaws without language that limits the
35 Alumni Association's ability to elect officers of their choice and
36 has given notice that she has disaffiliated from the association:

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
38 MISSISSIPPI, That Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Tom
39 Meredith, and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
40 Higher Learning direct the President of Mississippi University for
41 Women to immediately cease any and all actions intended to end the
42 relationship with the current Alumni Association, and direct the
43 President to maintain its relationship with the current Alumni
44 Association, which has served the university for 117 years, and to
45 resolve the dispute with the Alumni Association by giving the
46 Alumni Association of MUW the same voting rights of all other
47 alumni associations.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
49 to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning
50 and to the Governor and be made available to the members of the
51 Capitol Press Corps.