

By: Senator(s) Blount, Barnett, Butler
(38th), Frazier, Hopson, Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI
2 SENATE TO MILLSAPS COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. ROBERT W. PEARIGEN FOR
3 HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP IN
4 MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert W. Pearigen, the 13th President of
6 Millsaps College, has announced his resignation to accept a
7 similar position at the University of the South in Sewanee,
8 Tennessee; and

9 WHEREAS, he has been the leader at the Jackson Liberal Arts
10 College since 2010; and

11 WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Pearigen is a
12 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of the South, where he
13 earned a bachelor of arts in political science. He received his
14 master's and doctoral degrees in political science from Duke
15 University. His post-graduate study included constitutional law,
16 judicial process and political theory, particularly the work of
17 Plato and Aristotle. His academic fields of interest include
18 public law, political theory, and American government; and



19 WHEREAS, at Millsaps, Dr. Pearigen launched a comprehensive
20 college-wide strategic plan entitled "Across the Street and Around
21 the Globe: Partnerships and Influence at Millsaps College." The
22 plan was to make the most of Millsaps' distinctive strengths,
23 including its location in the capital city, its international
24 programs and partnerships, including a 4,500-acre biocultural
25 reserve in the Yucatán, and the combination of a liberal arts
26 college with a business school accredited by the Association to
27 Advance Collegiate Schools of Business; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Pearigen has continued to teach throughout his
29 administrative career. As a faculty member at Millsaps, Dr.
30 Pearigen has taught courses in constitutional law, civil rights
31 and liberties, jurisprudence, and political theory; and

32 WHEREAS, Jay Lindsey, Chairman of the Millsaps Board of
33 Trustees, praised Dr. Pearigen's tenure at Millsaps: "Rob has
34 been an outstanding leader, and I am immensely grateful for his
35 dedication and goodwill in service to Millsaps. His embrace of
36 the college's community, history and standards of excellence, his
37 energetic fundraising and realization of many campus improvements,
38 and his responses to unforeseen crises are among many achievements
39 to be saluted"; and

40 WHEREAS, "It has been my privilege and my joy to serve
41 Millsaps as its president, and I shall be forever grateful for the
42 opportunity to lead, learn from and help advance an institution
43 that is loved deeply," Dr. Pearigen stated. "I am also thankful



44 for the opportunity to teach at Millsaps and to engage with some
45 of the finest students of this generation"; and

46 WHEREAS, according to Dr. Pearigen, the value of a Millsaps
47 education begins in the classroom, but continues far beyond.
48 Millsaps students are engaged in learning on campus, across the
49 street in our city and region, and around the globe through its
50 programs and partnerships abroad; and

51 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend the
52 contributions of this academic leader of one of Mississippi's
53 flagship institutions, who has built a strong foundation of skills
54 and knowledge that will serve students well throughout their
55 careers:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the
58 Mississippi Senate to Millsaps College President, Dr. Robert W.
59 Pearigen, for his contributions to higher education and civic
60 leadership in Mississippi, and our best wishes for future academic
61 success.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
63 Dr. Pearigen and his family, forwarded to the Board of Trustees of
64 Millsaps College and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

