

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM A. PERSON, DIRECTOR OF
2 GRADUATE STUDIES AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY, FOR HIS EDUCATIONAL
3 AND CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. William A. Person, Director of Office of
5 Graduate Studies and Professor of Curriculum and Instruction,
6 Mississippi State University (MSU), was nominated to the Board of
7 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning for commendation
8 in recognition of Black History Month; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Person received his Ed.D. in Educational
10 Administration from the University of Georgia (1977); M.Ed. in
11 Educational Administration from the University of Georgia (1973);
12 and B.A. in French from Johnson C. Smith University (1967); and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Person began his career in 1963 as a Dormitory
14 Counselor at Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North
15 Carolina, and has been employed as a teacher with the Georgia
16 Board of Education; Field Service Specialist at the University of
17 Georgia at Athens; Field Service Specialist and Administrative
18 Assistant at the University of Georgia at Athens. In 1977, he
19 joined the staff of Mississippi State University as Assistant
20 Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and has held several
21 positions including his present position as Director of Graduate
22 Studies; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Person serves as a role model and mentor for
24 numerous students, as well as for young faculty and staff members.
25 His guidance and encouragement have helped many students and young
26 professionals to build on their potential and achieve their goals;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Person's contributions to diversity and to
29 positive relations among all elements of the university and the
30 broader community are numerous and varied, and are highlighted by
31 his leadership efforts to promote minority graduate education at
32 MSU and in other state institutions through the Alliance for
33 Graduate Education in Mississippi; and

34 WHEREAS, Dr. Person has served on the Affirmative Action
35 Committee; Diversity Committee; Scholarship/Assistantship
36 Committee; Minority Issues Committee; Conference of Southern
37 Graduate Schools; Consultant, numerous diversity workshops and
38 presentations; Chair, Black Heritage Program in Starkville Public
39 Schools; active in National Black Graduate Student Association;
40 participation in multicultural education programs; principal
41 investigator for external projects for under-represented students;
42 and

43 WHEREAS, Dr. Person's civic and community involvement
44 includes Recreational Director for Starkville Second Baptist
45 Church since 1978; Board of Directors, George Evans Memorial
46 Softball Tournament; Starkville Park Commission; Starkville
47 Chamber of Commerce; and he has served on numerous committees in
48 the Starkville Public School District; and

49 WHEREAS, Dr. Person has been recognized for his work by
50 receiving Certificate of Appreciation by the McNair Research Forum
51 at Jackson State University (2001); Certificate of Appreciation by
52 the 2000 Alliance for Graduate Education in Mississippi (AGEM)
53 minority graduate education; Graduate of the PRO-MISS Institute of
54 Leadership, Mississippi State University (1999); and

55 WHEREAS, Dr. Person's professional memberships and activities
56 include Vice President/President-elect, President, Conference of
57 Southern Graduate Schools; Member, Planning Committee, Research
58 Association of Minority Professors; Member, National Black
59 Graduate Student Association Advisory Council; Executive Board,
60 Council of Graduate Schools; Executive Board of Directors for the

61 Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA); Executive
62 Board of Directors for the Alliance for Graduate Education in
63 Mississippi (AGEM); and

64 WHEREAS, Dr. Person has written numerous journal articles,
65 publications, and attended many professional meetings:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, That we take pride in recognizing Dr. William A.
68 Person, Director of Graduate Studies at Mississippi State University,
69 in observance of Black History Month for his commitment to
70 positive advancement of diversity at Mississippi State University
71 and in the State of Mississippi.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
73 Dr. Person in recognition of his commitment to higher education,
74 be forwarded to the President of Mississippi State University and
75 be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.