

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GRADUATE WOMEN OF COLOR AT UC MERCED

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Date: September 11, 2016

WHEREAS the University of California, Merced (UCM) is a Hispanic-serving and Minority-serving institution,

WHEREAS recent events at the campus have placed the life of one student, Violet Barton, in danger, and the culture of the campus in general has frequently left women of color as vulnerable targets,

WHEREAS attempts of women of color to participate in the UCM Graduate Student Association (GSA) in many capacities have been repeatedly denounced as “intimidation tactic[s]”, “bullying”, and “aggressive” by student representatives,

WHEREAS students of color at UCM are particularly isolated in a city that is hostile toward their presence with “Prison Alley”, police militarization, and neo-Nazi and other hate groups prominent in the area,

WHEREAS there are not safeguards in place to aid the UCM GSA to arbitrate the situation in a way that safely resolves the conflict and remedies damages done to student Violet Barton,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UCSA condemns the actions of those who place the lives of minority students in danger,

RESOLVED that the UCSA will provide support in the form of publicizing this issue and sharing the petition that has been started for student Violet Barton,

RESOLVED that the UCSA tasks its President to write a letter on behalf of the board to increase awareness of this particular situation and to make the safety of this student a priority,

RESOLVED that the letter should also detail the broader issues of safety and isolation of graduate student women of color at UCM, and the letter should be sent to the UCM Graduate Division, Academic Affairs, UCOP Graduate Studies, and UCOP Office of Diversity and Engagement.

RESOLVED that the letter should also encourage the UCM GSA to receive additional training with cultural sensitivity, conflict resolution, and professional communication.