RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GRADUATE WOMEN OF COLOR AT UC MERCED
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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.