



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
1 University Station, A6210 · Austin, TX 78712-0810
(512) 471 – 3166 · Fax: (512) 471-3408 · <http://www.utsg.org>

Passed by hand vote 3/24/15

AR 35: In Support of Removing the Jefferson Davis Statue at UT

On the removal of the Jefferson F. Davis statue located on the South Mall of The University of Texas at
Austin

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Sponsors: ANISH PATEL (REPRESENTATIVE, COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES) AND TARAL
PATEL (REPRESENTATIVE, UNIVERSITY WIDE)

WHEREAS, Student Government serves as the official voice of students at The University of Texas at
Austin; and,

WHEREAS, The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom,
leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility¹; and,

WHEREAS, The presence of the Jefferson Davis statue, located on the South Mall of The University
of Texas at Austin, is in direct contradiction with said core values¹; and,

WHEREAS, Jefferson Davis held that African-Americans repeatedly were morally and intellectually
inferior to whites²; and,

¹ <http://www.utexas.edu/about-ut/mission-core-purpose-honor-code>

² Davis, Jefferson. *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger, 2005. Print.



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WHEREAS, Jefferson Davis argued vociferously that the institutions of American slavery were beneficial²; and,

WHEREAS, Jefferson Davis' memoirs include the following quotes: "As a mere historical fact, we have seen that African servitude among us—confessedly the mildest and most humane of all institutions to which the name 'slavery' has ever been applied—existed in all the original states, and that it was recognized and protected in the fourth article of the Constitution," "A passing remark may here be appropriate as to the answer thus afforded to the beneficent Creator has implanted in the breasts of our fellow-men of all countries, to pass judgment on a measure by which several millions of human beings of an inferior race—peaceful, contented laborers in their sphere—are doomed to extermination" (Volume II, page 600) [See Appendix A for further quotes]²;" and,

WHEREAS, An argument for the preservation of the statue is the tradition held to symbolize unity of the North and the South³; and,

WHEREAS, The presence of the Jefferson Davis statue has been challenged before, but never acted upon⁴; and,

WHEREAS, The university seeks to act on the will of the student body and maintain its values; and,

WHEREAS, There is precedent in altering campus symbols that do not align with the values and ideals of the student body⁵, notably the renaming of Simkins Residence Hall, named after a notable KKK leader, to Creekside Residence Hall; and therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, From the quoted remarks, it is clear that the institutional promotion of Davis' legacy contradicts the university's core values; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The University of Texas at Austin as a public institution of the State of Texas that represents a diverse student population should not condone or promote Jefferson Davis' values that are offensive to the student body; and therefore,

³ http://m.statesman.com/news/news/local/questions-linger-regarding-confederate-statues-a-1/nRs8Y/#_federated=1

⁴ http://www.utexas.edu/president/past/faulkner/speeches/rrf_051004.pdf

⁵ <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/07/11/texas.klan.dorm/>



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, While the aforementioned argument that the statue symbolizes unity of the North and South is a noble intention, the statue clearly causes an unintended divide between the student body and the university; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, It is obvious that Jefferson Davis was racist against African Americans; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The University of Texas at Austin Student Government fully endorses the removal of the Jefferson Davis statue from campus; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Vice President of Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, the Director of Media Relations, the Office of Admissions, the Dean of Students, and *The Daily Texan*



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APPENDIX A

SOURCE: Davis, Jefferson. *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger, 2005. Print.

LINK to source: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/rise-and-fall-of-the-confederate-government-jefferson-davis/1101114539?ean=2940000739488>

Quotes:

“As a mere historical fact, we have seen that African servitude among us—confessedly the mildest and most humane of all institutions to which the name ‘slavery’ has ever been applied—existed in all the original states, and that it was recognized and protected in the fourth article of the Constitution” (Volume I, page 71).

“A passing remark may here be appropriate as to the answer thus afforded to the clamor about the ‘horrors of slavery.’ Had these Africans been a cruelly oppressed people, restlessly struggling to be freed from their bonds, would their masters have dared to leave them, as was done, and would they have they remained as they did, continuing their usual duties, or could the proclamation of emancipation have been put on the plea of a military necessity, if the fact had been that the negroes were forced to serve, and desired only an opportunity to rise against their masters?” (Volume I, pages 286-87).

[Quoting a speech he delivered as a US Senator from Mississippi in 1850]: “...see them [i.e. slaves] in useful employment, restrained from the vicious indulgences to which their inferior nature inclined them...” (Volume I, p. 497).

[Commenting on the Emancipation Proclamation]: “We may well leave it to the instinct of that common humanity, which a beneficent Creator has implanted in the breasts of our fellow-men of all countries, to pass judgment on a measure by which several millions of human beings of an inferior race—peaceful, contented laborers in their sphere—are doomed to extermination” (Volume II, page 600).