

**BILL#: SEN-28-07**

**TITLE: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification at UTK**

**SPONSOR: Zak Kelley, Freshman Council Senator (zkelley@utk.edu)**

**DATE: February 13, 2007**

Whereas, The Student Senate of The University of Tennessee represents the interests of all students within a diverse university community, and

Whereas, The University of Tennessee Mission affirms our effort to “provide a high quality educational experience in a diverse learning environment-promoting the values and institutions of democracy that prepare students to lead lives of personal integrity and civic responsibility in a global society”, and

Whereas, The University of Tennessee does not discriminate on the basis of “race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status in provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits”, and

Whereas, This policy extends to both employment by and admission to the University, and

Whereas, The University’s commitment to diversity reflects its recognition of the importance of an inclusive and welcoming environment in attracting, retaining, and supporting high quality students, faculty, and staff, and

Whereas, Diversity of ideas can be expressed in classrooms, research, and administrative and support programs of the University only if all members of the university community feel protected in expressing their views, and

Whereas, A clear and unambiguous policy which prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals based upon their sexual orientation or gender identity is necessary so that all members of the university community will understand the protections afforded the University, and

Whereas, Resolutions endorsing such a policy were adopted by the University of Tennessee’s Student Government Association Senate in 2003 and Graduate Student Senate in 1997, and 2003, and

Whereas, A resolution endorsing such a policy was adopted by a unanimous vote of The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate on October 20, 2003, and

Whereas, The University of Memphis, East Tennessee State University, and Middle Tennessee State University, among other Tennessee State Schools, already have non-discrimination policies that include “sexual orientation”, and

Whereas, Eight out of twelve schools of the South Eastern Conference (SEC) include “sexual orientation” as part of their non-discrimination policies.

Be It Hereby Resolved, That the Student Senate requires The University of Tennessee to include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” in the University’s non-discrimination policy within one year of this bills signing.

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT SENATE**

Seconded by

\_\_\_\_\_

VOTE for\_\_\_\_\_ against\_\_\_\_\_ abstentions\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_