WHEREAS: Interacting with different perspectives and people from diverse backgrounds supplements the curricular experience and empowers each student to gain knowledge and develop skills that are fundamental to a sound education and critical to becoming a productive and contributing citizen of this increasingly diverse nation, and

WHEREAS: Efforts by the Florida State University to foster a diverse and inclusive campus environment are in compliance with our accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which affirms, “Diversity in higher education is critical to the social and economic future of this country”, and

WHEREAS: The Florida State University Diversity and Inclusion Statement notes “By valuing, celebrating and leveraging the differences and similarities of our students, faculty and staff, we inspire an environment of innovation and passion - one that enables us to create a teaching, research and service environment that better reflects the needs of our students, faculty, staff, customers, constituents, communities and other key stakeholders.” and

WHEREAS: Students at the Florida State University have launched a historic, university-wide campaign entitled “#PowerofWE” under the auspices of the university president to encourage the university community to reimagine diversity as a tool, instead of a token, and to cultivate a culture that embraces and harnesses differences through innovating programming and partnerships, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: As members of the university community, we believe in protecting diversity of thought, and we are dedicated to fostering a culture of mutual respect, and
The Congress of Graduate Students openly and actively supports efforts to advance diversity and inclusion on campus, equal opportunity, non-discrimination, non-retaliation, and proudly stands by people of race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, veterans’ status, or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other protected group status, and life experiences who comprise a vital and welcomed part of the Florida State University community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Copies of this resolution be sent to:

Allen Bense, Chair of the Florida State University Board of Trustees
John E. Thrasher, President of Florida State University
Mary B. Coburn, Vice President for Student Affairs
Nancy Marcus, Dean of the Graduate School
Sally E. McRorie, Provost
Renisha Gibbs, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources/Finance and Administration Chief of Staff
Stanley Wilcox, Vice President and Director of Athletics
Inam Sakinah – Chair Student Diversity Council, Power of We
Nathan Molina, President, Student Government Association
Cynthia Green, Director Center for Global Engagement
Laura Osteen, Director Center for Leadership and Social Change

November 21, 2016