**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DR. GENE C. FANT, JR. UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY AS PRESIDENT OF NORTH GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY AND TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Dr. Gene C. Fant, Jr. upon the occasion of his fifth anniversary as President of North Greenville University; and

Whereas, Dr. Fant was born to parents Reverend Gene C. Fant, Sr. and Mona Faith. He is an alumnus of the University of Southern Mississippi, where he earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree in English and his Master of Education degree; and

Whereas, Dr. Fant also earned his Master of Divinity degree in Biblical Languages from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; his Master of Arts degree in English from Old Dominion University; his Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology from James Madison University; and a certificate in Educational Management from Harvard University; and

Whereas, over the course of his illustrious academic career, Dr. Fant has served at multiple universities. He began his career at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he worked as a Graduate Teaching Fellow, Assistant Director of the Mississippi Institute for Law-Related Education, and Assistant to the University President; and

Whereas, in 1995, Dr. Fant was hired as an Assistant Professor of English at Mississippi College, where he was awarded tenure and named Chair of the Department of English in 1998. He served as Chair until 2002, when he moved to Union University. There, he served as Chair of the Department of English, Professor of English, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Vice President for Academic Administration, and Executive Vice President for Academic Administration & Dean of the Faculty. In 2014, Dr. Fant moved to Palm Beach Atlantic University, where he was Provost, Chief Academic Officer, and Professor of English. In 2017, he was chosen as President of North Greenville University; and

Whereas, Dr. Fant is also a member of the Board of Advisors and a curriculum designer for Impact 360 Institute of the LifeShape Foundation; and

Whereas, over the years, Dr. Fant has received a number of honors and awards, including the 2003 and 2007 Amy Foundation Award; the 2006 Grand Prize in Feature Writing from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education; the 2006 Silver Medallion in Outstanding Reporting from Parenting Publications of America; and the Writer-in-Residence position at the Edgar Allan Poe Museum Young Authors Conference; and

Whereas, Dr. Fant has written and published *The Liberal Arts: A Students’ Guide*, *God as Author: A Biblical Approach to Narrative*, *Expectant Moments: Devotions for Expectant Parents*; chapters in published and forthcoming books; as well as many other significant papers; and

Whereas, a devout Christian, he and his family have been dedicated members of Family Church – Gardens since 2014. Dr. Fant has also been a Supply Preacher in churches in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, and Virgiana; an interim minister to college students as West Jackson Baptist Church; and a Deacon since his ordination in 1995; and a Ukraine mission trip leader in 2010, among other services to his church and community; and

Whereas, Dr. Fant married Lisa Williams Fant in 1989, and together they have two children, twins Emily and Ethan. Both children are honors students at Jupiter Community High School; and

Whereas, in his free time, Dr. Fant enjoys reading, hiking, pop culture, and sports; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment that Dr. Fant has shown in serving the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Dr. Gene C. Fant, Jr. upon the occasion of his fifth anniversary as President of North Greenville University and recognize and honor his many contributions to the academic community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Gene C. Fant, Jr.

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