

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 660

By Summerville

A RESOLUTION relative to “Sex Week” at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

WHEREAS, an activity called “Sex Week” took place at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville from March 2-7, 2014, featuring outside speakers, films, and participatory activities in which students were inveigled to take part; and

WHEREAS, “Sex Week” included outside speakers, some of whom were paid or reimbursed for airfare, hotel, meals, and honoraria; and

WHEREAS, those speakers included a self-styled porn actress and “famous queens who strut their stuff across the stage”; and

WHEREAS, topics and events for “Sex Week” included a scavenger hunt for a golden condom hidden somewhere on campus, a class in aphrodisiac cooking, and a seminar on the “role hooking up plays in campus life”; and

WHEREAS, presentations invited students to consider: “getting wet, when lube is a tool of the revolution”; to learn that pornography is “relative”; to hear youth idol Justin Bieber tell them that “behavior creates gender”; to take part in a “Sex Week Dance Class”; and to learn how to masturbate; and

WHEREAS, “Sex Week” activities deliberately mocked, offended, and denigrated the values of the majority of Tennesseans, whose tax dollars underwrite the ever-rising costs of attending the university; and

WHEREAS, “Sex Week” drew upon resources paid for by those public funds, including meeting space, room decorations, catered food, and amenities to attract students to attend; and

WHEREAS, the expenses of the event were also subsidized in part by an activities fee that all students are required to pay along with already hefty costs for their education; and

WHEREAS, students whose upbringing, religious convictions, or traditional values would keep them from participating in such an event nevertheless had no choice but to help underwrite “Sex Week”; and

WHEREAS, “Sex Week” offered titillation and entertainment but little educational value to students; and

WHEREAS, “Sex Week” took place with the cooperation, contrivance, or inattention and acquiescence of senior administrators; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that that those administrators deserve censure and are hereby censured by this General Assembly: University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro; University of Tennessee Chancellor Jimmy Cheek; University of Tennessee Provost Susan Nichols; University of Tennessee Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Sally McMillan; and University of Tennessee Vice President for Faculty Affairs John P. Zomchick.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to each of the above named persons.