



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

June 19, 2020

As the 2020-2021 Executive Board of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) at the University of Mississippi, we reaffirm our support for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Board's decision to finally relocate the Confederate monument on campus from the Circle to the University Cemetery. We are troubled, however, by the IHL's misleading suggestion in their June 18, 2020 meeting agenda that the newly released plan, which details a number of significant beautification measures for the relocation site, "has received written endorsement" from the GSC. Contrary to this assertion, the GSC first learned of any additional measures beyond relocation upon the release of yesterday's agenda. We oppose any efforts, including those proposed on page 115 of the IHL's meeting agenda, to augment the new location of the monument and further glorify the causes it represents. In short, we echo previous GSC leadership in our support for the removal of the Confederate monument from the Circle, but we repudiate the proposed enhancements of the relocation site, as listed in the IHL's June 18, 2020 agenda.

Signed,

Kelsa Pellettiere, *Interim President, Graduate Student Council*

Amber Hodge, *Secretary, Graduate Student Council*

Austin Nicholson, *Treasurer, Graduate Student Council*