

**Resolution Calling for Memorial to Enslaved Persons
Who Helped to Build the University of Missouri**

For consideration by the MU Faculty Council at its March 9, 2017 meeting

Whereas, the University of Missouri was founded in 1839 when Missouri was a slave state, AND

Whereas the University respects and honors the memory of its founders with numerous public memorials, AND

Whereas, University Founders, including James Rollins, “the Father of the University of Missouri,” held slaves before, during and after the founding of the University, AND

Whereas, financial pledges by founders to establish the University were dependent on land worked by slave labor, AND

Whereas, University records show that slaves were employed in University maintenance prior to the Civil War, AND

Whereas, the loss of early records does not diminish the strong likelihood that slave labor was used in construction of antebellum buildings at the University, AND

Whereas, the University of Missouri, by ignoring the involvement of slavery in its establishment, distorts its own history,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the Faculty of the University recognizes the need to honor and respect those enslaved individuals whose labor also founded the University, AND

That the Faculty charges the relevant parties at the University to establish a suitable memorial, consisting of a prominent, permanent, outdoor artistic work to signify the University’s desire to honor and respect those enslaved individuals, AND

That the Chancellor shall report the progress of this effort at subsequent meetings of the General Faculty until the dedication of the Memorial.

Note: Some relevant background is available here: <http://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2008/0123-slavery-endowment.php>