

# Haskell Indian Nations University Faculty Senate

## Resolution No. 2021 – 02

Support for a *vote of no confidence* in the leadership, commitment to shared governance, a collegial culture of academic integrity, and transparent communication of Melanie Daniel, Vice President of Academics of Haskell Indian Nations University.

**Whereas**, the purpose of the Haskell Faculty Senate is to ensure that faculty participate in advancing the mission and vision of Haskell for the American Indian and Alaska Native students Haskell serves, as articulated in the Haskell Faculty Senate Constitution of 2017; and

**Whereas**, VPA Daniel has failed to formally engage Haskell Faculty Senate, the official voice of Haskell Indian Nations University faculty, in collegial discourse. The participation in the Higher Learning Commission's requirement of shared governance within colleges and universities is thereby compromised; and

**Whereas**, meetings are declared and cancelled with little notice, which complicates faculty scheduling and our ability to serve students and shows little respect for faculty time. This also results in a failure to convey basic, important information to faculty about the functioning of the university; and

**Whereas**, VPA Daniel has removed faculty from the decision-making process for academic standards, policies, and curriculum (including making changes to the Learning Management System and overhauling advising procedures), bypassing the Faculty Senate committee system in the process; and

**Whereas**, VPA Daniel proposes contract hires to fill key university roles without Haskell Faculty Senate consultation (e.g. student orientation, legal advice for policy revision, academic advising, graduation), which puts important university functions in the hands of short-term stakeholders that lack institutional knowledge; and

**Whereas**, VPA Daniel issued a mandate limiting academic freedom and free speech, which was an attempt to constrain faculty's ability to advocate for the university and students--a mandate which was later rescinded by Director Tony Dearman of the BIE; and

**And Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, the Haskell Faculty Senate declares no confidence in either VPA Daniel's leadership or her ability to support shared governance for Haskell Indian Nations University.

**And Now Therefore Be It Finally Resolved**, this vote of no confidence will be sent to Mr. Tony Dearman, Director of the Bureau of Indian Education, U.S. Department of Interior.

**Vote of No Confidence Certified on April 30, 2021**

**Unanimous No Confidence Decision: 15 Yes, 0 No and 0 Abstentions**

**Haskell Faculty Senate Executive Committee: Jimmy Beason, Judith Gipp, and Randall McCoy**