

WHEREAS, The Kentucky Museum is a nexus of academic activity at the university and the material collections housed there comprise an irreplaceable record of human activity in our region, our nation, and around the globe; and

WHEREAS, The acquisition, preservation, research and interpretation of these objects and manuscripts play an important role in the educational mission of WKU; and

WHEREAS, The Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG) “would not be supportive” of accreditation of a university museum under the supervision of a development office; and

WHEREAS, No other university museum or special collections we have yet discovered has been removed from the oversight of its parent institution’s chief academic officer; and

WHEREAS, The organizational directive of a body whose primary task is to generate income and grow the endowment may not be attuned to the pedagogical, research, and outreach mission of the Kentucky Museum; and

WHEREAS, Collaborations between the WKU Foundation and the Kentucky Museum are welcome and beneficial but the interests of the Kentucky Museum, its collections, and its educational mission are best served by remaining an integral part of academic operations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED THAT The preservation of the integrity of these holdings against potential future monetization efforts should be explicitly guaranteed in any 501(c)3 charter that seeks to separate such holdings from the property of WKU; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the operations of Kentucky Museum should remain under the auspices of faculty governance of the university, and as a safeguard, the Kentucky Museum should remain under the auspices of the division of Academic Affairs and should not be placed under the direct or indirect oversight of the WKU Foundation or its administrators.