

Senate Resolution 806

By: Senators Kennedy of the 18th, Harbin of the 16th, Jackson of the 24th, Walker III of the 20th, Kirk of the 13th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending President William D. Underwood of Mercer University; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, President William D. Underwood, the 18th president of Mercer, led Mercer
4 University during a period of dynamic growth and development since his appointment in
5 2006; and

6 WHEREAS, during his tenure, enrollment has increased by over 22 percent to be more than
7 8,600 students, with the university successively enrolling the four largest and best
8 credentialed freshman classes in the institution's history in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015; and

9 WHEREAS, the university has intensified its long-standing commitment to service-learning
10 and community engagement under President Underwood's leadership; and

11 WHEREAS, the groundbreaking Mercer on Mission program, launched in 2007, has been
12 recognized by the Clinton Global Initiative as "an exemplary approach to addressing a
13 specific global challenge"; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2008, Mercer became the first university in Georgia to receive the Carnegie
15 Foundation's designation for "Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships," a
16 classification that the foundation reaffirmed in 2014; and

17 WHEREAS, under President Underwood's leadership, Mercer resumed competition in
18 intercollegiate football in 2013 after a 72-year hiatus, and in its inaugural season, the
19 university established a new NCAA Division I record for wins by a start-up program by
20 achieving a 10-2 record; and

21 WHEREAS, in recognition of his service to the community, the Greater Macon Chamber of
22 Commerce, in 2013, honored President Underwood with its Citizens of the Year Award; the

23 *Georgia Trend*, in years 2013 through 2016, named him among the 100 Most Influential
24 Georgians; the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, in 2014, presented him with the
25 Leadership Character Award; and *The Macon Telegraph*, in 2016, named him as its Middle
26 Georgian of the Year; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
28 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 commend President William D. Underwood of Mercer University for his efficient, effective,
31 and dedicated service to the State of Georgia.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to President William
34 D. Underwood.