ARTICLE 1: Name
Gender Equity in Athletics Committee, hereafter referred to as the GEAC.

ARTICLE 2: Purpose
The purpose of the GEAC is to provide continuous evaluation and enforcement of the NCAA gender equity enhancement plans and other issues which may occur for student-athletes, coaches, and staff within the athletics department at The University of Southern Mississippi.

ARTICLE 3: Relationships and Responsibilities

Section 3.1. Relationships
Chain of Accountability:
Gender Equity in Athletics Committee shall report to the President

Section 3.2. Responsibilities
The Gender Equity in Athletics Committee:
- Assist the Southern Miss Athletics department in the creation and formulation of a workable and realistic NCAA Gender Enhancement Plan
- Evaluates and enforces the Plan to ensure completion of goals in specified time
- Make adjustments to the Plan as deemed necessary
- Prepare annual report of all activities and recommendations
- Report findings to the President and Athletic Director by June 1 of each year

Section 3.2.1. Responsibilities of the Chair
The Chair of the GEAC is responsible for calling and presiding over meetings, and acting as spokesperson for the Gender Equity in Athletics Committee when required.

Section 3.2.2. Responsibilities of the Voting Members
Voting members of the GEAC are responsible for representing the university in its mission to accomplish equity in its athletics department (sport program, student-athletes, coaches, and staff), attend all meetings, review assigned assessment reports and plans, and vote on agenda items.

ARTICLE 4: Members

Section 4.1. Administrative and Faculty Representatives
Administrative and faculty members are appointed by the President’s office upon the recommendation of the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman’s Administrator (SWA). It is highly suggested that these members have an interest in gender equity and athletics. The committee members should also be diverse by gender, race and ethnicity.

Section 4.2. Student Representation
Student members are appointed by the Athletics Department (one male and one female student-athlete) and Student Government Association (one male or female representative). All students are voting members.
Section 4.3. Ex Officio Members
Ex Officio members of the committee include the Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA and the Director of Equal Opportunity Employee & Affirmative Action. Ex Officio members will have no voting rights.

Section 4.4. Chair
The chair of the GEAC is appointed for a three (3) year term by the University President. Members rotating off the committee are not eligible to be elected as chair. Ex-officio committee members are not eligible for election to Chair. The chair of one University Standing Committee may not chair another University Standing Committee.

Section 4.5. Term of Service and Rotation
The term of service shall be two years for committee members. These two year teams shall be in a staggered rotation so as not to have all new members during any term of service.

Section 4.6. Unexpired Terms of Service
If a member leaves the committee before the term is completed, a replacement will be appointed, as described in Sections 4.1 and 4.2.

ARTICLE 5: Meetings

Section 5.1. Regular Meetings and Minutes
The University President, chair of the GEAC, Athletics Director or Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA may call meetings as needed. Monthly meetings are held during the calendar year. Meetings are open to the University Community and to the public in accordance with the Mississippi Meetings Open Act (MCA § 25-41-1). Minutes of each meeting of the GEAC will be maintained by the committee. Summaries will be posted on the USM Hub.

Section 5.2. Quorum
A quorum shall consist of not less than a simple majority of the voting members of the committee. No business shall be conducted if less than a majority of voting members is present.

Section 5.3. Voting
A motion carries when a majority of voting members present cast an affirmative vote.

Section 5.5: Removal for Cause
Committee members who fail to actively engage in the business of the committee may be removed by a majority vote of the remaining members of the GEAC.

ARTICLE 6: Amendments to GEAC Bylaws
The Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the GEAC or the University Assessment Committee by a two-thirds vote, provided that a quorum (a majority of all voting members) is present and that the changes were submitted in writing at a previous meeting.

Effective Date: February 11, 2011