

1 **RESOLUTION 1920-AU-003**

2 **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF GRADUATE STUDENT**
3 **OMBUDSPERSON AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

4 Author(s): Mark Pauley (Pauley.66), Chair – Graduate Student Affairs

5 Sponsor: Executive Committee

6
7 WHEREAS, the Council of Graduate Students is vested with authority to voice graduate student concerns and needs to the
8 University; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the Council of Graduate Students is tasked with the responsibility to act in the best interest of the graduate
11 student population at the University; and

12
13 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Council of Graduate Students asked the Graduate School to explore the creation of a new
14 ombudsperson position with a special focus on supporting graduate students at the University; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the Graduate School returned a letter to the Council of Graduate Students on September 24, 2019 expressing
17 support for the creation of a graduate ombudsperson position at the University; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the Graduate School has asked the Council of Graduate Students and University Senate in this letter to give
20 their “full and thoughtful consideration to [their] proposed position”; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the graduate student population at the University is not currently being served by an ombudsperson; and

23
24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students supports the Graduate School’s stated position
25 and is calling for the creation of a graduate ombudsperson position at the University; and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the graduate ombudsperson position will maintain neutrality, free from any ties to
28 students’ academic programs; and

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the graduate ombudsperson position will maintain confidentiality and independence
31 to ensure fair objectivity; and

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the graduate ombudsperson position will receive the necessary institutional support
34 and training from the University to ensure its success; and

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the graduate ombudsperson position will reside outside the authority of the Graduate
37 School, and will instead reside within the Office of Academic Affairs, reporting directly to the Executive Vice President
38 and Provost; and

39
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the graduate ombudsperson shall be a tenured faculty member, a tenure-track faculty
41 member, or a full-time staff member currently employed at the University. Appointments shall be made on the basis of
42 recommendations made by a search committee consisting of members appointed by the Graduate School and the Council
43 of Graduate Students. Both the Graduate School and the Council of Graduate Students will be responsible for selecting
44 their own respective appointees to the committee. Committee seats shall be allocated according to the model established
45 by the Graduate Compensation and Benefits Committee, in which the graduate student appointees from the Council of
46 Graduate Students will comprise the largest number of seats on the committee. The term of office shall be for one year,
47 and is renewable. Additional responsibilities for the ombudsperson position, including the formal job description and time
48 commitment, will be decided by the aforementioned search committee; and

49
50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the graduate ombudsperson shall be someone with experience in university
51 governance, shall be familiar with university rules and policies, prevalent cultural norms within the institution, precedent,
52 and established university policies and operating procedures; and

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the responsibilities of the graduate ombudsperson will be to:

55

- 56 a) Serve as an advisor to graduate students and assist them in determining the viability of their complaints and
57 issues, as they relate to university rules and policies.
58 b) Direct graduate students to appropriate offices, committees, and resources, and make them aware of relevant
59 university rules and policies
60 c) Serve when appropriate as an informal impartial mediator of early-stage complaints, rather than as an
61 advocate for graduate students involved in complaints.
62 d) Present an annual report early in the autumn term of each academic year on his or her activities to the
63 Graduate School that will then be publicly distributed to the graduate student body at-large.
64 e) Make available the visibility of the office of the ombudsperson to graduate students through venues such as
65 web pages, oral presentations by the ombudsperson at Graduate School events, and through an introduction at
66 the first meetings of University Senate and the Council of Graduate Students each year; and
67

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that recourse with the ombudsperson is voluntary and not a prerequisite for consideration
69 of any dispute by the Graduate School, the Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, the Office of Academic
70 Affairs, or the Office of Human Resources; and
71

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students charges its President to communicate to the Ohio
73 State University President, Executive Vice President and Provost, Vice President of Student Life, Vice Provost and Dean
74 of the Graduate School, Deans and Faculty of all University colleges and programs employing graduate students, and all
75 others to advance the Council of Graduate Students' position as established by this resolution; and
76

77 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Ohio State University President,
78 Executive Vice President and Provost, Vice President of Student Life, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School,
79 Deans and Faculty of all University colleges and programs employing graduate students, and all others to advance the
80 Council of Graduate Students' position as established by this resolution.
81

82

83

84 Approved: Yes/No

85

86 Date: __10/4/19__

87

88

89

90 Stephen J. Post
Stephen J. Post, President

Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University