

1 **RESOLUTION 1920-AU-005**

2 **A RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL**
3 **STUDENT LIFE WITHIN THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**
4

5 Authors: DaVonti’ D. Haynes (.242), Treasurer; Mark Pauley (.66), Graduate Student Affairs Chair
6 Sponsors: Executive Committee
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8 WHEREAS, the Council of Graduate Students is vested with authority to voice graduate student concerns and needs to the
9 University; and

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11 WHEREAS, the fundamental values and goals The Ohio State University embrace nurtures the growth of every student¹;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the Office of Student Life is dedicated to creating the extraordinary student experience for every Ohio State
15 student²; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Council of Graduate Students has submitted proposals and participated in conversations to improve the
18 graduate/professional student experience at The Ohio State University; and

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20 WHEREAS, graduate students have voiced their frustrations and concerns about the state of graduate student affairs at the
21 university and within the Office of Student Life; and

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23 WHEREAS, universities across the United States are grappling with an increase in graduate/professional students
24 concerns and demands for added services and support systems^{3 4 5}; and

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26 WHEREAS, The Ohio State University has failed to produce clear action plans to address graduate/professional student
27 concerns and issues; and

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29 WHEREAS, graduate/professional student representation at the University and in the Office of Student Life continues to
30 lag; and

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32 WHEREAS, graduate/professional students lack representation on the Office of Student Life leadership team similar to
33 that of undergraduate students, via the Senior Director of Student Activities and Associate Dean of Students who acts as
34 the advisor to Undergraduate Student Government; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Office of Student Life currently employs only one professional staff member dedicated to
37 graduate/professional students; and

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39 WHEREAS, the graduate and professional student enrollment at The Ohio State University has continuously increased
40 over the past five years and support for graduate/professional students has not followed this trend; and

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42 WHEREAS, the graduate and professional student enrollment at The Ohio State University currently accounts for 21
43 percent of the University total enrollment, with 14,593 students and 23.7 percent of the Columbus campus enrollment
44 with 14,573 students; and

¹ Office of Academic Affairs, “Mission, Vision, Values and Goals” <https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

² Office of Student Life, “The Office of Student Life: Creating the Extraordinary Student Experience” <https://studentlife.osu.edu/about/>

³ The Chicago Maroon, “Committee on Grad Education Report Shows Increasing Dissatisfaction Among Grad Students”
<https://www.chicagomaroon.com/article/2019/4/20/committee-grad-education-report-shows-increasing-d/>

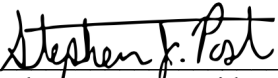
⁴ Inside Higher Ed, “Mental Health Crisis for Grad Students” <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/03/06/new-study-says-graduate-students-mental-health-crisis>

⁵ The Cornell Daily Sun, “Graduate Students Issue Demands to Cornell Administrators” <https://cornellsun.com/2017/10/03/graduate-students-issue-demands-to-cornell-administrators/>

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46 WHEREAS, other Big Ten and peer institutions, with smaller graduate and professional student populations, currently
47 employ full time professional staff in roles equivalent to that of a Director of Graduate Student Life, who is responsible
48 for advocating for, representing, and supporting graduate and professional students within the context of student life; and
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50 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students officially recommend that The Ohio State
51 University hire additional full-time staff dedicated to the experience of graduate/professional students within the Office of
52 Student Life, with experience and expertise of working with graduate/professional student populations; and
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54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students supports the creation of the Director of
55 Graduate/Professional Student Life within the Office of Student Life, reporting to the Dean of Students, dedicated to
56 graduate/professional students and the graduate/professional student experience; and
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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director of Graduate/Professional Student Life position be filled by the start of the
59 2020-2021 academic year; and
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61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council of Graduate Students and the Inter-Professional Council shall be involved in
62 the selection process of the individual slated to fill the Director of Graduate/Professional Student Life role; and
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64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective spring 2021, the Office of Student Life in collaboration with the Graduate
65 School will produce an annual report on the State of Graduate Student Affairs to be made available to the public;
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67 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to The Ohio State University
68 President Michael V. Drake, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce McPheron, Vice Provost for Graduate
69 Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Interim Vice President for Student Life Molly Ranz
70 Calhoun, Incoming Vice President for Student Life Melissa Shivers, and Senior Vice Provost Kay Wolf.

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73 Approved: Yes/No

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75 Date: 11/8/19

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79 Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University