

RESOLUTION 2425-FA-001: A RESOLUTION REGARDING OTDI POLICY ON LICENSING, TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY, & SOFTWARE UPDATES

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Sponsoring Committee: Academic Affairs

1 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate
2 students enrolled at The Ohio State University as established by Article II Section 1 of the CGS
3 Constitution; and

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5 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students or its appointed representative(s) have the power to
6 act as an advisory agent on behalf of graduate students on all matters brought before personnel,
7 committees, or agencies of The Ohio State University involving the interest of graduate students
8 as established in Article III Section 3 of the CGS Constitution; and

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10 WHEREAS The Ohio State University is designated as an institution with R1 status, “Very High
11 Research Activity”, based on number and type of graduate degrees conferred and research
12 spending, in addition to other criteria ^{1 2}; and

13
14 WHEREAS graduate students at OSU require different technology, software, and digital tools to
15 effectively and efficiently conduct research and satisfy program milestones, dependent on field
16 conventions, publication norms, department/program expectations, and professional development
17 needs; and

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19 WHEREAS access to the Adobe Creative Cloud suite for students was removed effective Summer
20 2024 without direct consultation or input from CGS as the representative body of graduate students
21 prior to this decision and its implementation ³; and

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23 WHEREAS mandated accessibility checks for the submission of theses and dissertations to OSU’s
24 Graduate School require specific Adobe Acrobat Pro’s feature to check the accessibility of PDFs

¹ https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/institutions/page/2/?basic2021__du%5B0%5D=15

² <https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/carnegie-classification/classification-methodology/basic-classification/>

³ <https://it.osu.edu/news/2024/07/08/adobe-creative-cloud-purchase-open-units#:~:text=Under%20the%20university's%20new%20contract,the%20need%20for%20additional%20licenses.>

25 which are no longer provided to graduate students via universal graduate Adobe Acrobat Pro
26 access ⁴; and

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28 WHEREAS OSU's Graduate School only provides Adobe Acrobat Pro Access in the Digital
29 Union, Research Commons Computer Lab, and the public library sites at the Thompson Main
30 Library and 18th Avenue Library, preventing graduate students located outside of Columbus the
31 ability to check the accessibility of their these, dissertations, and other documents⁵; and

32

33 WHEREAS at the time of this resolution's drafting CGS has not been made aware of proactive
34 planning and implementation on OTDI's part to address the removal of access to these features
35 such that graduate students will not be negatively impacted by Adobe Acrobat Pro's
36 discontinuation; and

37

38 WHEREAS the Adobe Express platform that now is provided in place of Adobe Creative Cloud
39 to graduate students is not commensurate with the previous full access to Acrobat Pro and other
40 Adobe tools, either concretely/technologically or in the opinion of CGS; and

41

42 WHEREAS data storage limits for "student"-classified Microsoft accounts at OSU are being
43 reduced to 100 GB for Microsoft Outlook and 100 GB for Microsoft OneDrive by June 1st, 2025,
44 again without direct consultation or input from CGS as the representative body of graduate
45 students prior to this decision and its planned implementation ⁶; and

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47 WHEREAS data storage limits for faculty and staff Microsoft accounts will be 500 GB for
48 Microsoft OneDrive Storage by June 1st, 2025; and

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50 WHEREAS the vast majority of graduate students tend to hold Graduate Teaching Associate
51 (GTA) and Research Associate (GRA) positions which often require software access and cloud
52 storage equivalent to those available to university faculty and staff for security, efficiency,
53 collaborative, and instructional needs in order to carry out their job duties ⁷; and

54

55 FINALLY, WHEREAS OTDI policies are currently applied uniformly to all students, regardless
56 of undergraduate versus graduate status, despite graduate students' distinct roles often including
57 employment through the university for up to .75 full-time equivalent (FTE), involving the
58 aforementioned GTA and GRA duties for 20 (.5 FTE) to 30 (.75 FTE) hours a week.

⁴ <https://gradsch.osu.edu/current-students/dissertations-and-theses/document-preparation/graduate-school-electronic-thesis>

⁵ <https://gradsch.osu.edu/current-students/dissertations-and-theses/document-preparation/digital-accessibility-guide>

⁶ <https://it.osu.edu/news/2024/06/10/you-will-be-impacted-changes-storage-limits-and-university-email-services>

⁷ <https://senate.osu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/GCBC%20Report%202023-2024%20PDF.pdf>

59
60 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CGS continues to actively assert that The Ohio State
61 University and its constituent units should directly and proactively involve CGS in making
62 decisions that concern graduate students, thereby ensuring the needs and considerations of the
63 graduate student body at OSU are represented equitably and accurately at the outset of policy
64 discussions and updates.

65
66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OSU colleges, departments, offices, and units that have the
67 authority and charge to make said policy changes should effectively communicate changes in
68 graduate relevant policies with CGS, and additionally with the Graduate School, so that graduate
69 students (and their supervising faculty and staff) are aware of them in a timely manner, and can
70 coordinate to address gap or issues that may arise resultant to the policy changes made.

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72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CGS asserts that making policy changes without careful
73 consideration and consultation with graduate students, and widely notifying graduate students of
74 these changes only after they are implemented or discovered by graduate students after
75 implementation is not acceptable, and negatively impacts graduate education, professional
76 development, and mental health.

77
78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CGS believes that units making technology policy changes
79 must contact at least one of the following bodies with graduate representation/graduate
80 representatives; the University Senate and its appropriate committees such as the Committee on
81 Academic Technology (CAT), the University Research Committee (URC), and/or the CGS
82 President and Academic Affairs Committee.

83
84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CGS continues to reaffirm that The Ohio State University
85 (and *all* its constituent units) *must* consider and acknowledge graduate students holistically across
86 our multiple roles as students *and* employees (teachers, researchers, and more) at OSU in order to
87 properly consider and address graduate students' complex and interlinked needs with regard to
88 education, research, professional development, and more.

89
90 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President to
91 distribute this resolution to all proper leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University and
92 its partners including but not limited to the Chief Information Officer and the University Senate
93 Committee on Academic Technology.

Date of Vote: December 6th, 2024

Yay Votes: 40

Nay Votes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Adopted: Yes/No



Sabrina Durso.19, CGS President

Resolution 2425-FA-001 Voting Results

Voting Member Name	Voting Member Position	Official Vote
Sherifat Alabi.17	Delegate (Agricultural Communication, Education, & Leadership)	YAY
Mia Kordowski.1	Delegate (Biophysics)	YAY
Abbi Houser.273	Delegate (Chemistry & Biochemistry)	YAY
Johnathan Chisam.1	Delegate (Chemistry & Biochemistry)	YAY
Bill Wang.13945	Alternate Delegate (for Vaasavi Unnava.4 - Economics) & Chair (Research & Data Operations Committee)	YAY
Sohan Daniel.508	Delegate (Educational Studies & Technologies) & Committee Chair (Academic Affairs Committee)	YAY
Mimi Adjei.39	Delegate (Educational Studies & Technologies)	YAY
Murtaza Arshad.32	Delegate (Electrical & Computer Engineering) & Chair (Housing & Family Affairs Committee)	YAY
Luke VanNiel.4	Delegate (English) & CoChair (Health, Wellness, & Safety Committee)	YAY
Brittany MulterHopkins.1	Delegate (Environment & Natural Resources) & Chair (Sustainability & Environmental Responsibility Committee)	YAY
Casey Ortbahn.1	Delegate (Environment & Natural Resources)	YAY
Prabhjot Singh.1374	Delegate (Environmental Science)	YAY
Michaela Rogers.1843	Delegate (Evolution, Ecology, & Organismal Biology – EEOB)	YAY
Autumn Sylvestri.1	Delegate (Food, Agricultural, & Biological Engineering – FABE)	YAY
Veeramani Karupuchamy.1	Delegate (Food Science & Technology)	YAY
Holly Engel.210	Delegate (French & Italian) & CoChair (Arts & Culture Committee)	YAY
Adam Tjoelker.4	Delegate (Geography & Atmospheric Sciences)	YAY
Trevor Teafatiller.1	Delegate (Germanic Languages & Literatures)	YAY
Chris Leger.21	Delegate (History)	YAY
Aminah Shahzad.17	Delegate (Human Sciences)	YAY
Alyssa Allen.2334	Delegate (Linguistics)	YAY
Dhairya Goel.169	Delegate (Management & Human Resources)	YAY
Tony Annerino.2	Delegate (Material Science & Welding Engineering)	YAY
Vignesh Karunakaran.10	Delegate (Material Science & Welding Engineering)	YAY
Mehmet Basaran.10	Delegate (Mathematics)	YAY

Jake Huryn.5	Delegate (Mathematics)	YAY
Katelyn Amstutz.87	Delegate (Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology – MCDB)	YAY
Lauren Levesque.31	Delegate (Molecular Genetics)	YAY
Nick Booker.200	Delegate (Music) & CoChair (Arts & Culture Committee)	YAY
Yoon-Jae Yi.277	Delegate (Neuroscience Graduate Program)	YAY
Gianni Giarano.1	Delegate (Ohio State Biochemistry Program - OSBP)	YAY
Connor Griffith.1104	Delegate (Philosophy)	YAY
Riley McDowell.310	Delegate (Physics & Chemical Physics)	YAY
Charlie Mace.103	Delegate (Physics & Chemical Physics)	YAY
Zen McKenzie.517	Delegate (Plant Pathology, Sciences, & Agriculture)	YAY
Tinu Oduloye.1	Delegate (Psychology)	YAY
Tom Elton.21	Delegate (Public Health)	YAY
Aryn Robinson.2283	Delegate (Speech & Hearing Sciences) & Chair (Membership Wellness Committee)	YAY
Zeynep ArslanOzkaynak.1	Delegate (Teaching & Learning)	YAY
Gabriella Trigo-McIntyre.1	Delegate (Theatre)	YAY

DISCIPLINA IN CIVITATEM

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