RESOLUTION 1920-AU-005

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

Authors: DaVonti’ D. Haynes (.242), Treasurer; Mark Pauley (.66), Graduate Student Affairs Chair
Sponsors: Executive Committee

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, universities across the United States are grappling with an increase in graduate/professional students concerns and demands for added services and support systems³ ⁴ ⁵; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

² Office of Student Life, “The Office of Student Life: Creating the Extraordinary Student Experience” https://studentlife.osu.edu/about/
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/
WHEREAS, other Big Ten and peer institutions, with smaller graduate and professional student populations, currently employ full time professional staff in roles equivalent to that of a Director of Graduate Student Life, who is responsible for advocating for, representing, and supporting graduate and professional students within the context of student life; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students officially recommend that The Ohio State University hire additional full-time staff dedicated to the experience of graduate/professional students within the Office of Student Life, with experience and expertise of working with graduate/professional student populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students supports the creation of the Director of Graduate/Professional Student Life within the Office of Student Life, reporting to the Dean of Students, dedicated to graduate/professional students and the graduate/professional student experience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director of Graduate/Professional Student Life position be filled by the start of the 2020-2021 academic year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council of Graduate Students and the Inter-Professional Council shall be involved in the selection process of the individual slated to fill the Director of Graduate/Professional Student Life role; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective spring 2021, the Office of Student Life in collaboration with the Graduate School will produce an annual report on the State of Graduate Student Affairs to be made available to the public; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to The Ohio State University President Michael V. Drake, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce McPheron, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Interim Vice President for Student Life Molly Ranz Calhoun, Incoming Vice President for Student Life Melissa Shivers, and Senior Vice Provost Kay Wolf.

Approved: Yes/No

Date: 11/8/19

Stephen J. Post, President