Resolution 1718 – SP - 001
A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT "RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER" AS A FOUNDATIONS COURSE FOR THE GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Author: Bennett Whitaker (.105), Comparative Studies Delegate

Whereas preparing a diverse student body to be "leaders and engaged citizens" is part of The Ohio State University’s mission statement\(^1\); and

Whereas The Ohio State University's General Education program intends "the development of knowledge, perception, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand society’s traditions and past, its accomplishments and aspirations, its relation and responsibility to the natural world, its diversity and plurality, and its problems and needs"\(^2\); and

Whereas The Ohio State University defines the goal of its General Education requirements as encouraging and helping "students to attain a sense of self within society"; and

Whereas the university's General Education requirements are presently under review and intend "to develop and refine certain qualities, abilities and characteristics that prepare its students to be engaged, resilient, and adaptable citizens and leaders for life; to develop an engagement with and ability to apply a range of important modes of human thought and inquiry; and to examine significant aspects of the human condition in local, state, national and global settings today, and in the foreseeable future"\(^3\); and

Whereas the proposed revisions to the university's General Education requirements advise that undergraduate students "describe and analyze U.S. institutions, the cultural traditions that have formed and informed the nation, and the pluralistic nature of U.S. society" as expected learning outcomes; and

Whereas the proposed revisions to the university's General Education requirements also outline the ability to "explicitly examine and value various expressions and implications of diversity, both within and beyond U.S. society" as expected learning outcomes; and

Whereas adopting "Race, Ethnicity, and Gender" as a Foundational requirement for undergraduate students will support the mission statement of The Ohio State University; and

Whereas a number of universities, including Big Ten institutions such as University of Michigan\(^4\), University of Illinois\(^5\), University of Minnesota\(^6\), and University of Wisconsin\(^7\) have already established

\(^1\) [http://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals](http://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals)
\(^2\) [https://hrs.osu.edu/academics/academic-resources/general-education-curriculum](https://hrs.osu.edu/academics/academic-resources/general-education-curriculum)
\(^3\) [http://senate.osu.edu/materials/fc/2017-10-26/Combined%20document%20Revision%20to%20General%20Education%20Requirements.pdf](http://senate.osu.edu/materials/fc/2017-10-26/Combined%20document%20Revision%20to%20General%20Education%20Requirements.pdf)
\(^4\) [https://admissions.umich.edu/summary-lsa-degree-requirements](https://admissions.umich.edu/summary-lsa-degree-requirements)
\(^5\) [http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/requirements/gened/](http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/requirements/gened/)
\(^6\) [https://onestop.umn.edu/academics/education-requirements](https://onestop.umn.edu/academics/education-requirements)
\(^7\) [http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatesudytext](http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatesudytext)
General Education curricula that prescribe Race, Ethnicity, and/or Gender as requirements for their undergraduate students; and

**Whereas** adopting "Race, Ethnicity, and Gender" as a Foundational requirement for undergraduate students will thereby bring us in line with key peers among the Big Ten universities; and

**Whereas** adopting "Race, Ethnicity, and Gender" as a Foundational requirement for undergraduate students will better equip students to engage courses in the category of "Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World" in more profound ways; and

**Whereas** the Graduate Student Council's purpose is "To effectively advocate and program to ensure that The Ohio State University graduate student experience is the best it can be"; and

**Whereas** graduate students at The Ohio State University provide instruction for undergraduate courses, including courses offered to satisfy the General Education curricular requirements of the university; and

**Whereas** the composition and content of courses administered by and taught by graduate students are a central concern of those students;

**Therefore, let it be resolved** that the Graduate Student Council supports the inclusion of at least one 3-credit hour course in the area of "Race, Ethnicity, and Gender" as a Foundations Course requirement for the revised General Education curriculum for undergraduate students at The Ohio State University; and

**Let it further be resolved** that the Graduate Student Council affirms that incorporating this Foundation into the General Education curriculum will enhance The Ohio State University's ability to attract and retain more students from underrepresented groups precisely because it shifts the charge for understanding their underrepresentation from members of those groups to the whole of the university's shared academic society, making all members of the university participants in addressing such concerns; and

**Let it further be resolved** that the Graduate Student Council affirms its support for The Ohio State University's responsibility to be a leader in diverse and inclusive academics and practices, and that adopting this General Education requirement is an important step to such an end.

Approved: Yes/No

Date: 2/23/208

W. Alex Wesaw, President – Council of Graduate Students