Resolution 1819-SP-004

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE VALUE OF GRADUATE WORK SPACE AND GRADUATE INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Authors: Steven Dalglish (.2) and Robert Dahlberg-Sears (.1)

WHEREAS there has recently been made known a decision to repurpose space currently in use by graduate students and graduate associates (hereafter referred to by ‘GSs’ and ‘GAs’, respectively) such that the GSs and GAs are being made to relocate their work space; and

WHEREAS this decision was made without adequate consultation or involvement of the GSs and GAs affected by this decision; and

WHEREAS efforts by GSs, GAs, and faculty to negotiate or otherwise partake in the decision-making procedure were not granted an appropriate audience or response; and

WHEREAS the decision and the process by which it was reached was not viewed favorably by the GSs and GAs it affects; and

WHEREAS two mission goals of the Graduate School are to “[p]rovide governance to ensure integrity, fairness and a base-level standard of consistency in the management of graduate students and programs” and to “create alumni that have had a positive graduate studies experience at The Ohio State University, would recommend [their] graduate program, and serve as advocates for the Graduate School”; and

WHEREAS fair governance that ensures integrity requires that one involve and appropriately communicate with those one is governing when engaging in decision-making procedures that impact members of the governed body; and

WHEREAS work space for discipline-specific graduate study and teaching support is important to fostering positive experiences such that alumni would recommend the graduate program; and

WHEREAS the inclusion of GSs and GAs in decision-making procedures led by the Graduate School concerning graduate student space is important to fostering in GSs and GAs a compulsion to advocate for the Graduate School; and

WHEREAS the demonstration of support by the Graduate School for adequate work space for GSs and GAs is important to fostering in graduate students a compulsion to advocate for the Graduate School; and

WHEREAS it is part of The Ohio State University’s mission to “[educate] students through a comprehensive array of distinguished academic programs”; and

WHEREAS work space for GAs to meet personally with students outside of the classroom but within a discipline-specific environment is essential to effectively educating students; and

WHEREAS “innovation” and “collaboration” are values held by the university; and

WHEREAS work space for discipline-specific communal study is essential to collaboration and innovation;

1 https://gradsch.osu.edu/about
2 https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals
3 Ibid.
NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students strongly disapproves of the actions taken by the parties responsible for the decision-making process; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students affirms the need for graduate student representation and involvement in decision-making procedures that affect GSs and GAs; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students affirms the importance of discipline-specific work space for GSs and GAs; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students supports the right of GSs and GAs to sufficient and comfortable work space for their duties.