

1 **Resolution 1718 – SP – 001**

2 A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT "RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER" AS A FOUNDATIONS COURSE
3 FOR THE GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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6 **Whereas** preparing a diverse student body to be "leaders and engaged citizens" is part of The Ohio State
7 University's mission statement¹; and
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9 **Whereas** The Ohio State University's General Education program intends "the development of knowledge,
10 perception, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand society's traditions and past, its accomplishments and
11 aspirations, its relation and responsibility to the natural world, its diversity and plurality, and its problems and
12 needs"²; and
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14 **Whereas** The Ohio State University defines the goal of its General Education requirements as encouraging and
15 helping "students to attain a sense of self within society"; and
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17 **Whereas** the university's General Education requirements are presently under review and intend "to develop and
18 refine certain qualities, abilities and characteristics that prepare its students to be engaged, resilient, and adaptable
19 citizens and leaders for life; to develop an engagement with and ability to apply a range of important modes of
20 human thought and inquiry; and to examine significant aspects of the human condition in local, state, national
21 and global settings today, and in the foreseeable future"³; and
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23 **Whereas** the proposed revisions to the university's General Education requirements advise that undergraduate
24 students "describe and analyze U.S. institutions, the cultural traditions that have formed and informed the nation,
25 and the pluralistic nature of U.S. society" as expected learning outcomes; and
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27 **Whereas** the proposed revisions to the university's General Education requirements also outline the ability to
28 "explicitly examine and value various expressions and implications of diversity, both within and beyond U.S.
29 society" an expected learning outcome; and
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31 **Whereas** adopting "Race, Ethnicity, and Gender" as a Foundational requirement for undergraduate students will
32 support the mission statement of The Ohio State University; and
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34 **Whereas** a number of universities, including Big Ten institutions such as University of Michigan⁴, University of
35 Illinois⁵, University of Minnesota⁶, and University of Wisconsin⁷ have already established General Education
36 curricula that prescribe Race, Ethnicity, and/or Gender as requirements for their undergraduate students; and

¹ <http://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

² <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>

⁴ <https://admissions.umich.edu/summary-lsa-degree-requirements>

⁵ <http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/requirements/gened/>

⁶ <https://onestop.umn.edu/academics/education-requirements>

⁷ <http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduestudytext>

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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 is 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 "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.

Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University