Resolution No. 1314-08
A Resolution to Urge University of Missouri Administration to Act in Regard to Housing for Graduate and Professional Students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE GATHERED THAT:

WHEREAS, on 22 February 2014, a structural failure occurred at the University Village apartment complex causing a walkway to collapse; and

WHEREAS, on 12 March 2014, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced that the University Village apartment complex would be shut down and demolished shortly after 30 June 2014; and

WHEREAS, the University Village apartment complex houses many graduate and professional students as well as international students; and

WHEREAS, international students contribute vitally to the research community at the University of Missouri, a research community that is essential to our standing in the Association of American Universities; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Professional Council has heard the voices of students regarding this issue with overwhelming support toward access to safe and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, if the University is to continue support for graduate and professional student housing, significant action will need to be taken by University Administration to ensure that new facilities are built to a high standard; and

WHEREAS, graduate and professional student parents have strongly expressed that their housing needs are not being met by University Administration; and

WHEREAS, seeking housing in the Columbia community can be problematic due to expensive costs, excessive noise, and conditions not suitable to intensive study; be it

RESOLVED, by majority vote of the General Assembly here gathered that the Graduate Professional Council take a uniform stance regarding access
RESOLVED, that the Graduate Professional Council urge University Administration to explore all options and opportunities for the construction of new housing for graduate and professional students including convening a Chancellor’s Task Force to explore the issue, forming a plan to begin budgeting for new construction, and/or assisting in finding donors for new construction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Professional Council urge University Administration to do all in its power to ensure that any new graduate/professional student housing facility is built in a convenient location and/or has a reliable shuttle for non-driving students, is affordably priced, and allows for focus on intensive academics according to the needs of graduate and professional students; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Professional Council urge University Administration to support the Department of Residential Life in its pursuit of a Master Lease with local properties in the short term; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Professional Council urge University Administration not to issue burdensome fees to graduate and professional students to pay for the cost of demolishing the University Village apartment complex nor should any new fees relevant to the demolition be assessed without consulting the graduate and professional student body.

SUBMITTED,

Mr. Eric A. Hucker
Vice-President of GPC