



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Wednesday, the Missouri Speaker of the House announced the final three representatives to round out the University of Missouri Independent Review Commission's six members. The commission is tasked with creating a list of recommendations regarding every facet of operations within the University of Missouri system. This charge is to be completed by the end of this year.

This commission and its charge are problematic for several reasons. First, the vague nature of the expressed mission of this commission indicates that there is a possibility of encroachment onto policies and procedures that are defined as part of shared governance. Furthermore, the short time frame for the commission to complete its task further compounds the concern about the vague and open nature of the commission's charge. Six months is not a sufficient amount of time to look into every aspect of the UM System and make substantive decisions that could vastly alter the System and its mission.

Finally, the commission's appointments without bipartisan input are also troubling as it removes the representation of many of those that live within the areas that our campuses are in. Since the recommendations made by the commission come with consequences if they are not implemented, bipartisan input is a necessary component to representing all of the constituents that are served and serve the University of Missouri System.

The University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council raises these concerns as part of the Mizzou community. Our constituency includes those that are students, researchers, teachers, and employees. The University of Missouri is not without its issues and work needs to be done to improve it for all Missourians. However, a hastily conducted, partisan commission will not help move the State of Missouri or the University of Missouri System forward. At a time when the State's finances are tight, we feel that the \$750,000 allocated for the commission could be better spent on other System priorities.

Founded in 1983, the Graduate Professional Council (GPC) is the official student government for all graduate, professional, post-baccalaureate, and post-doctoral students at the University of Missouri.