



**Graduate Professional Council
University of Missouri**

Resolution 1112-04

A resolution to express overwhelming opposition among the University of Missouri's graduate and professional student body to the 12.5 percent cut in state appropriations for the UM System in the 2012-13 academic year proposed by Gov. Jay Nixon in the 2012 Missouri State of the State address.

WHEREAS, the UM System currently receives less state funding than it did in 2001 while educating 17,000 more students, and

WHEREAS, Gov. Nixon's proposed 2012 budget would result in a cumulative 25 percent reduction in state appropriations to the UM System over the last three years, and

WHEREAS, Gov. Nixon's proposed cuts would reduce state funding for higher education to its lowest level since 1997, and

WHEREAS, Missouri currently ranks 45th in the nation in state funding, per capita, for higher education, and

WHEREAS, further reductions to the UM System budget could also result in larger class sizes, fewer full-time faculty members employed by the university, and over-burdening of teaching and research assistants, as well as putting MU's standing as an AAU accredited university, and one of the top research institutions in the country, in jeopardy ; and

WHEREAS, compared to 20 years ago, students pay 21% more of the university's operations budget (from 27% to 48%), while the state pays 28% less than it did (from 64% to 36%); and

WHEREAS, Whereas Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, has estimated the cut would result in a loss of \$22 million from Columbia's economy; and

WHEREAS, UM System curators, including Wayne Goode, have publicly said the cuts could result in a tuition increase for students higher than the rate of inflation; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, has said the cuts could damage the UM System's reputation as a research university "for decades to come", and

WHEREAS, UM System interim President Steve Owens has expressed his disappointment with the proposal, saying, “It is fair to ask how long we can continue to do more with less”, and

WHEREAS, regarding the proposed cuts, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton has said, “The university has been doing so much with less funding on an ongoing basis. There are limits as to how far we can go”, and

WHEREAS, Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration for the UM System, said in December 2011 that the system was already facing an estimated \$78 million budget shortfall in 2013.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL that on behalf of the nearly 7,800 graduate, professional, post-doctoral, and post baccalaureate students at the University of Missouri, is formally stating its opposition to Missouri Governor Jay Nixon’s proposed 2012 budget which would result in a 12.5% reduction in state appropriations for the UM System and higher education in Missouri.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GPC General Assembly implores state lawmakers to search for alternative means of filling the state’s budget shortfall.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that GPC General Assembly shall work with the Missouri Students Association in expressing opposition to the proposed 12.5% reduction in state appropriations for the UM System and higher education in Missouri.

Respectfully Submitted,