A Resolution affirming GPC’s support of SB747, a resolution in the Missouri legislature which would mandate that the student representative to the UM System Board of Curators be a graduate or professional student, and would also give voting privileges to the student representative.

WHEREAS, the Graduate Professional Council, to be hereafter referred to as GPC, recognizes that a student voice with voting privileges on the UM System Board of Curators will provide better representation on the Board, and

WHEREAS, a student curator with voting privileges would provide a voice on the UM System Board of Curators for the more than 73,000 students of the UM system schools, and

WHEREAS, student tuition currently accounts for approximately 50% of the UM System’s total annual funding, and

WHEREAS, students are close to the pulse of the UM System schools, and have the benefit of current, personal experience with the institutions governed by the Board of Curators, and

WHEREAS, the average age of past student representatives to the UM System Board of Curators is 23, and

WHEREAS, at least 33 other states have universities with a voting student member on their governing board, and

WHEREAS, Missouri House and Senate passed a similar plan in 2008 with votes of 100-47 and 31-2 respectively, and

WHEREAS, a student must go through a rigorous application process to ensure a qualified candidate serves on the Board, and

WHEREAS, a student then must be selected by the Missouri Governor and subsequently confirmed by the Missouri Senate, and
WHEREAS, the student representative on the UM System Board of Curators will have a two year term of service, with the student curator being chosen from one of the four UM System campuses on a rotating basis, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GPC supports Senate Bill 747 to mandate that a graduate or professional student from one of the four UM System campuses serve as the 9th voting member of the UM System Board of Curators, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that GPC will formally support Senate Bill 747 at the Senate Committee Hearings for Education in March of 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Martin  
GPC State Legislative Issues Coordinator