



Resolution No. 1718-07
A Resolution Regarding the Status of the Graduate School

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE GATHERED THAT:

- WHEREAS,** Prior to the leadership of former Chancellor Bowen Loftin, the Office of Graduate Studies, then known as the Graduate School, was structured as an “academic division,” rather than as a non-academic “office”; and
- WHEREAS,** The aforementioned restructuring of the Graduate School was recommended against by a Provost’s task force on interdisciplinary degrees; and
- WHEREAS,** Leaders amongst the faculty, administration and graduate-professional student populations have begun to recognize that while interdisciplinarity has been a buzz topic for some years, Mizzou has an opportunity to make genuine strides by more carefully attending to incentives baked into existing structures and practices that create serious barriers to innovative interdisciplinary offerings and output; and
- WHEREAS,** Mizzou has recently made clear that enhancing Mizzou’s interdisciplinary offerings and output in real terms is a primary strategic goal, through documents such as the final report of the Task Force on Academic Program Analysis, Enhancement and Opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** Restoring the status of the Graduate School as an academic division will be a critical component of meeting the aforementioned goal; and
- WHEREAS,** The Office of Graduate Studies’s current status as a non-academic office cuts it off from vital areas of the University’s organizational structure, which has the net effect of disenfranchising graduate students from important campus functions; and
- WHEREAS,** In other member universities of the Council of Graduate Schools, it is standard practice to consider the Graduate School an academic unit; and
- WHEREAS,** The current head of the Office of Graduate Studies does not, unlike their national peers, have the title of “Dean of Graduate Studies”; and
- WHEREAS,** The restoration of the status of the Graduate School would play a valuable role in Mizzou’s opportunity to make graduate students and graduate education, training, professional development, and placement more central to the university’s “sense of identity”; and
- WHEREAS,** The restoration of the status of the Graduate School would offer unique opportunities for integration of graduate training and research output with new initiatives announced by Chancellor Cartwright on 27 February 2018, including innovative “alt-ac” and “non-ac” career resources and pipelines and also including integration with the efforts of the new Office of Research Advancement; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** By majority vote of the General Assembly here gathered that the Graduate Professional Council does join the call for restoring the Office of Graduate Studies to its prior position as the Graduate School, a recognized academic unit, with all corresponding changes to administrative titles and roles within the University’s organizational structure.

SUBMITTED,
GPC Executive Board