



Resolution No. 1819-25

A Resolution On Initiatives to Improve Graduate Education in Research Methods and the Philosophy of Scientific Inquiry

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE GATHERED THAT:

- WHEREAS,** the core of any Graduate education program is the formation of students in the ways and means of scientific inquiry and thought and the conduct of research; and
- WHEREAS,** this requires that students across disciplines can access a broad range of coursework and opportunities for mentorship and education from experts in a variety of methodological and philosophical perspectives; and
- WHEREAS,** a recent review of courses related to research methods and the philosophy of scientific inquiry indicates that at minimum 216 unique course offerings are listed in the Catalog of the University of Missouri; and
- WHEREAS,** on the MU campus there currently exists no centralized structure for students and faculty to identify these courses or other relevant opportunities across academic units of the University, when they will be offered, and other pertinent information, much to the detriment of Graduate and Professional students' academic success; and
- WHEREAS,** additional barriers to access, including fee structures, enrollment permissions, and others, further impeding academic success of Graduate and Professional students; and
- WHEREAS,** research methods courses additionally provide fertile ground for fostering interdisciplinary learning and collaboration at the University of Missouri, among not only Graduate and Professional students but also Faculty and Academic Staff; and
- WHEREAS,** preliminary review of current course offerings listed in the Catalog indicates there are areas of duplication and repetition, the resolution of which may bring greater efficiencies and new learning opportunities alike; and
- WHEREAS,** increased coordination, communication, and collaboration among academic units related to course offerings and mentorship directed at Graduate and Professional students is reasonably expected to improve educational outcomes, promote more robust research, and improve the competitiveness for extra-mural funding; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** by majority vote of the General Assembly here gathered that the Graduate Professional Council does call upon the University of Missouri and its officers, officials, and faculty, and any pertinent Shared Governance Bodies therein, to constitute a Working Group on Graduate Education in Methods ("the GEM Working Group") to be coordinated by the Graduate School and reporting to its Dean, its purpose to include (a) review the current challenges and opportunities for Graduate and Professional education in methods and philosophy of scientific inquiry, (b) foster collaboration and coordination of said educational opportunities across academic units, and (c) facilitate longer-term strategic goal setting of the Graduate School with relation to its mission area of interdisciplinary studies promotion; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** The GEM Working Group be constituted by at least one representative from the humanities, the sciences, and the social sciences each as commonly understood; and be it further



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RESOLVED, that GPC urges the creation of a Clearing House for Research Methods Curriculum, in collaboration with pertinent units of the University including the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Research, such Clearing House to provide a digital “one-stop shop” for Graduate and Professional students and their mentors to (a) identify current course offerings related to research methods and the philosophy of scientific inquiry, (b) propose to the Graduate School and the GEM Working Group needs and potential opportunities, and (c) identify other resources off-campus relevant to graduate education in research methods; and be it further

RESOLVED, the GPC’s General Assembly calls upon the Graduate Faculty Senate, the Faculty Council, and the Postdoctoral Association to pass legislation and take other action which supports the instantiation of initiatives to improve educational outcomes related to research methods and the philosophy of scientific inquiry.

SUBMITTED,

Jason Scott Entsminger, At-Large Representative

Jesse W Wyatt, GPC Vice President