



Resolution No. 1718-02

Calling for Action by the University of Missouri After Secretary DeVos' Title IX Decision

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE GATHERED THAT:

- WHEREAS,** On April 4, 2011, what is now known as the “Dear Colleague Letter” was sent by the Assistant Secretary of Education at the time giving guidance on school’s obligations to address sexual harassment, including sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS,** The University of Missouri and the UM System should be advocates for those who are victims of sexual violence and fully investigate every instance of sexual violence that occurs on campus grounds; and
- WHEREAS,** As of September 22, 2017; Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has rescinded the guidance given in the April 2011 “Dear Colleague Letter”; and
- WHEREAS,** Every person who walks on this campus, whether a student or not, should feel that they as an individual are safe because the university will actively protect them through policy intended to prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence, and when prevention does not deter sexual violence the university will protect the victims from further harassment or violence by the attackers; and
- WHEREAS,** Constant changing of the processes for responding to sexual violence creates irregularities and distrust in the institution’s responses/actions; and
- WHEREAS,** The UM System has lobbying power with state and national leaders; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** By majority vote of the General Assembly here gathered that the Graduate Professional Council supports the continuation of the guidance and processes offered by the “Dear Colleague Letter” (Located in Appendix A below) in regard to school’s obligations to addressing these matters; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Graduate Professional Council urges the University of Missouri Administration in tandem with the Title IX Office on campus work to continue university regulations and processes that match or exceed those in the guidance given in the April 2011 letter and urges the administration to pursue every action possible to influence state and national politicians to keep or continue improving the processes in how schools respond to sexual harassment and sexual violence.

SUBMITTED,
Blake Willoughby
Theatre Representative