



**Resolution No. 1617-08**

**A Resolution Upholding the Unimpeded Right of Graduate Workers to Organize and Collectively Bargain**

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE GATHERED THAT:

- WHEREAS,** Resolutions 1516-05, 1516-08, and 1516-16 established the Graduate Professional Council's strong support for the unimpeded right of graduate student employees to organize in a union of their choice; and
- WHEREAS,** Resolution 1516-16 requested that the University recognize the fair and democratic results of April 2016's representation election; and
- WHEREAS,** The University of Missouri System declined to recognize the results of said fair and democratic election, and thereby doubling down on forcing a needless and costly lawsuit by the Coalition of Graduate Workers for graduate employees at Mizzou to be recognized as employees for the purpose of collective bargaining; and
- WHEREAS,** The University of Missouri System has made an affirmative legal argument that graduate student employees are not employees for the purpose of collective bargaining, and therefore do not possess collective bargaining rights; and
- WHEREAS,** Graduate worker unions exist at a number of recognizably excellent institutions, such as the University of Michigan and the entire University of California system, and graduate worker union drives are ongoing at a number of top universities including Harvard, UPenn, Cornell, and Columbia; and
- WHEREAS,** The NLRB recently ruled in favor of union rights for graduate student workers at Columbia University, setting a precedent for collective bargaining rights for graduate workers in private universities; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** By majority vote of the General Assembly here gathered that the Graduate Professional Council begins the new academic year by reaffirming its support for graduate workers' unimpeded right to organize, should they so choose, as is consistent with the stated position of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS); and be it further
- RESOLVED,** The Graduate Professional Council recommends that the University of Missouri System reconsider the decision to force a costly legal battle; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** The Graduate Professional Council calls on the University of Missouri to develop a formal relationship with the Coalition of Graduate Workers in order to ensure that the



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interests of graduate-professional student employees are appropriately protected now and in the future; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** The Graduate Professional Council reaffirms its recommendation (Resolution 1516-16) that the University of Missouri System exercise its authority to voluntarily recognize the Coalition of Graduate Workers as the exclusive bargaining agent for graduate-professional student employees or otherwise provide a non-litigious path to organizing for graduate workers at Mizzou without further delay; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** A copy of this resolution will be submitted to Interim Chancellor Foley, Provost Stokes, Dr. Rubin, Interim President Middleton, Interim Vice President for Human Resources, and the Office of General Counsel.

**SUBMITTED,**

E. Alex Howe

Treasurer

Josh Bolton

Director of Communication