A Resolution to Further Improve the Academic Programming of the STEP Program at The Ohio State University

Connor Dorony (for himself, Kyle Dorony, Shamina Merchant, Samer Abusway, Kurt Shaffer, and Kimmy Sullivan) introduced the following resolution to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

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Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas the Second-Year Transformational Experience Program (STEP) is a program designed to promote student success and development,¹ and

Whereas the program is intended to connect students with faculty members in order to improve students’ engagement on campus, as well as develop tools for life and professional skills¹, and

Whereas STEP participants are required to attend weekly meetings with their faculty member and cohort to set personal goals,² and

Whereas most weekly cohort meetings are scheduled based on student availability, and

Whereas students do not typically have majors or professional interests similar to others in their cohort, and

Whereas some STEP cohorts are centered around Scholars groups, where participants have similar majors and areas of professional study, and

Whereas participants are also required to attend three professional development co-curricular programs (PDCs) during the autumn semester,³ and

Whereas previous STEP participants have voiced concern that the current PDCs are not fully effective in helping students develop professional skills,⁴ and

https://step.osu.edu/program-overview/
http://step.osu.edu/program-overview/professional-development-co-curricular-requirement/
Whereas participants may be prone to choose PDCs based on what fits into their busy schedules rather than which programs best match with their personal and professional interests, and

Whereas weekly cohort meetings, if properly utilized, provide a better opportunity for the program to more effectively meet its objectives than PDCs,² and

Whereas former STEP participants have suggested that current cohort meetings could be better structured and more purposeful, and

Whereas the diverse array of professional interests among most current cohort members may make it difficult for every student in the cohort to benefit from the professional development activities planned during weekly meeting times;

Therefore Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government supports improving the structure of weekly STEP cohort meetings to more effectively utilize the allotted time, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government advocates extending the model used in Scholars STEP cohorts so that all cohorts are organized based on major or area of professional interest to more effectively tailor the experience to the student, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government supports including specific professional development activities during weekly cohort meetings, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government encourages a detailed sample STEP Curriculum Plan to be created prior to the first STEP meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that this sample Curriculum Plan should be given to faculty members, and be accessible to students, to serve as an example for cohort programming, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the proposed sample STEP Curriculum Plan should include professional development opportunities including, but not limited to, resume building and career fair and interview preparation, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government would like to work with administration to improve the professional development aspects of the Second-Year Transformational Experience Program.

Floor Vote: Passed
Gerard Basalla
President

Date Adopted: 10/19/16

Danielle Di Scala
Vice President

Date Terminated: ________________