

**A Resolution to Support “Race, Ethnicity, and Gender” as a Foundations Course
for the General Education Curriculum**

Kinza Sami (for herself and Farhan Quadri) introduced the following legislation 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 preparing a diverse student body to be “leaders and engaged citizens” is part of The Ohio State University’s mission statement,¹ and

Whereas The Ohio State University is a land-grant university, established by the Morrill Act of 1862,² dedicated to providing access to quality education to citizens around the state of Ohio, and

Whereas The Ohio State University describes the purpose of General Education requirements as providing “the development of knowledge, perception, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand society’s traditions and past, its accomplishments and aspirations, its relation and responsibility to the natural world, its diversity and plurality, and its problems and needs,”³ and

Whereas The Ohio State University also defines the goal of General Education requirements as encouraging and helping “students to attain a sense of self within society,” and

Whereas a number of universities, including Big Ten institutions such as University of Michigan,⁴ University of Illinois,⁵ University of Minnesota,⁶ and University of Wisconsin⁷ have already established General Education curricula that prescribes Race, Ethnicity, and/or Gender as requirements for their undergraduate students, and

¹ <http://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

² <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=33>

³ <https://hrs.osu.edu/academics/academic-resources/general-education-curriculum>

⁴ <https://admissions.umich.edu/summary-lsa-degree-requirements>

⁵ <http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/requirements/gened/>

⁶ <https://onestop.umn.edu/academics/education-requirements>

⁷ <http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>

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36 **Whereas** the General Education requirements have been revised, as of October 24, 2017,
37 and redesigned in order “to develop and refine certain qualities, abilities and
38 characteristics that prepare its students to be engaged, resilient, and adaptable citizens and
39 leaders for life; to develop an engagement with and ability to apply a range of important
40 modes of human thought and inquiry; and to examine significant aspects of the human
41 condition in local, state, national and global settings today, and in the foreseeable
42 future,”⁸ and

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44 **Whereas** the revised General Education requirements outline the ability to “describe and
45 analyze U.S. institutions, the cultural traditions that have formed and informed the nation,
46 and the pluralistic nature of U.S. society” as an expecting outcome, and

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48 **Whereas** adopting “Race, Ethnicity, and Gender” as a Foundational requirement for
49 undergraduate students will support the mission statement of The Ohio State University,
50 and

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52 **Whereas** adopting “Race, Ethnicity, and Gender” as a Foundational requirement for
53 undergraduate students will bring us in line with key peers in the Big Ten universities,
54 and

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56 **Whereas** adopting “Race, Ethnicity, and Gender” as a Foundational requirement for
57 undergraduate students will better equip students to engage courses in the category of
58 "Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World" as well as other categories, in more profound
59 ways, and

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61 **Whereas** the revised General Education curriculum does not entail “Race, Ethnicity, and
62 Gender” as a Foundational requirement for undergraduate students;

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64 **Therefore, Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports the
65 adoption of "Race, Ethnicity, and Gender" as a Foundations Course for the revised
66 General Education curriculum for undergraduate students at The Ohio State University,
67 and

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69 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that incorporating this Foundation into the General
70 Education curriculum will enhance The Ohio State University’s ability to retain and
71 graduate more students from underrepresented groups precisely because it shifts the
72 charge for understanding their underrepresentation from members of those groups to all
73 of us, the entire university community, making us all participants in also generating
74 solutions, and

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⁸ <http://senate.osu.edu/materials/fc/2017-10-26/Combined%20document%20Revision%20to%20General%20Education%20Requirements.pdf>

76 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government believes that
77 The Ohio State University has not only the potential, but also a responsibility to be a
78 leader in diverse and inclusive academics and practices, and adopting this requirement is
79 an important step in this process.

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84 Floor Vote: Tabled; sent to Academic Affairs

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Andrew Jackson

91 President

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96 Date Adopted: _____

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Sophie Chang

Vice President

Date Terminated: _____