

1 **RESOLUTION 2425-FA-001: A RESOLUTION REGARDING OTDI POLICY**
2 **ON LICENSING, TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY, & SOFTWARE**
3 **UPDATES**

4
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7 (.19), CGS President; Patrick Smith (.15196), Delegate; Adam Tjoelker (.4), Delegate
8 **Sponsoring Committee:** Academic Affairs

9
10 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate
11 students enrolled at The Ohio State University as established by Article II Section 1 of the CGS
12 Constitution; and

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14 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students or its appointed representative(s) have the power to
15 act as an advisory agent on behalf of graduate students on all matters brought before personnel,
16 committees, or agencies of The Ohio State University involving the interest of graduate students
17 as established in Article III Section 3 of the CGS Constitution; and

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19 WHEREAS The Ohio State University is designated as an institution with R1 status, “Very High
20 Research Activity”, based on number and type of graduate degrees conferred and research
21 spending, in addition to other criteria ^{1 2}; and

22
23 WHEREAS graduate students at OSU require different technology, software, and digital tools to
24 effectively and efficiently conduct research and satisfy program milestones, dependent on field
25 conventions, publication norms, department/program expectations, and professional development
26 needs; and

27
28 WHEREAS access to the Adobe Creative Cloud suite for students was removed effective Summer
29 2024 without direct consultation or input from CGS as the representative body of graduate students
30 prior to this decision and its implementation ³; and

31
32 WHEREAS mandated accessibility checks for the submission of theses and dissertations to OSU’s
33 Graduate School require specific Adobe Acrobat Pro’s feature to check the accessibility of PDFs

¹ https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/institutions/page/2/?basic2021__du%5B0%5D=15

² <https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/carnegie-classification/classification-methodology/basic-classification/>

³ <https://it.osu.edu/news/2024/07/08/adobe-creative-cloud-purchase-open-units#:~:text=Under%20the%20university's%20new%20contract,the%20need%20for%20additional%20licenses.>

34 which are no longer provided to graduate students via universal graduate Adobe Acrobat Pro
35 access ⁴; and

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37 WHEREAS OSU's Graduate School only provides Adobe Acrobat Pro Access in the Digital
38 Union, Research Commons Computer Lab, and the public library sites at the Thompson Main
39 Library and 18th Avenue Library, preventing graduate students located outside of Columbus the
40 ability to check the accessibility of their these, dissertations, and other documents⁵; and

41
42 WHEREAS at the time of this resolution's drafting CGS has not been made aware of proactive
43 planning and implementation on OTDI's part to address the removal of access to these features
44 such that graduate students will not be negatively impacted by Adobe Acrobat Pro's
45 discontinuation; and

46
47 WHEREAS the Adobe Express platform that now is provided in place of Adobe Creative Cloud
48 to graduate students is not commensurate with the previous full access to Acrobat Pro and other
49 Adobe tools, either concretely/technologically or in the opinion of CGS; and

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51 WHEREAS data storage limits for "student"-classified Microsoft accounts at OSU are being
52 reduced to 100 GB for Microsoft Outlook and 100 GB for Microsoft OneDrive by June 1st, 2025,
53 again without direct consultation or input from CGS as the representative body of graduate
54 students prior to this decision and its planned implementation ⁶; and

55
56 WHEREAS data storage limits for faculty and staff Microsoft accounts will be 500 GB for
57 Microsoft OneDrive Storage by June 1st, 2025; and

58
59 WHEREAS the vast majority of graduate students tend to hold Graduate Teaching Associate
60 (GTA) and Research Associate (GRA) positions which often require software access and cloud
61 storage equivalent to those available to university faculty and staff for security, efficiency,
62 collaborative, and instructional needs in order to carry out their job duties ⁷; and

63
64 FINALLY, WHEREAS OTDI policies are currently applied uniformly to all students, regardless
65 of undergraduate versus graduate status, despite graduate students' distinct roles often including
66 employment through the university for up to .75 full-time equivalent (FTE), involving the
67 aforementioned GTA and GRA duties for 20 (.5 FTE) to 30 (.75 FTE) hours a week.

⁴ <https://gradsch.osu.edu/current-students/dissertations-and-theses/document-preparation/graduate-school-electronic-thesis>

⁵ <https://gradsch.osu.edu/current-students/dissertations-and-theses/document-preparation/digital-accessibility-guide>

⁶ <https://it.osu.edu/news/2024/06/10/you-will-be-impacted-changes-storage-limits-and-university-email-services>

⁷ <https://senate.osu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/GCBC%20Report%202023-2024%20PDF.pdf>

68
69 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CGS continues to actively assert that The Ohio State
70 University and its constituent units should directly and proactively involve CGS in making
71 decisions that concern graduate students, thereby ensuring the needs and considerations of the
72 graduate student body at OSU are represented equitably and accurately at the outset of policy
73 discussions and updates.

74
75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OSU colleges, departments, offices, and units that have the
76 authority and charge to make said policy changes should effectively communicate changes in
77 graduate relevant policies with CGS, and additionally with the Graduate School, so that graduate
78 students (and their supervising faculty and staff) are aware of them in a timely manner, and can
79 coordinate to address gap or issues that may arise resultant to the policy changes made.

80
81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CGS asserts that making policy changes without careful
82 consideration and consultation with graduate students, and widely notifying graduate students of
83 these changes only after they are implemented or discovered by graduate students after
84 implementation is not acceptable, and negatively impacts graduate education, professional
85 development, and mental health.

86
87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CGS believes that units making technology policy changes
88 must contact at least one of the following bodies with graduate representation/graduate
89 representatives; the University Senate and its appropriate committees such as the Committee on
90 Academic Technology (CAT), the University Research Committee (URC), and/or the CGS
91 President and Academic Affairs Committee.

92
93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CGS continues to reaffirm that The Ohio State University
94 (and *all* its constituent units) *must* consider and acknowledge graduate students holistically across
95 our multiple roles as students *and* employees (teachers, researchers, and more) at OSU in order to
96 properly consider and address graduate students' complex and interlinked needs with regard to
97 education, research, professional development, and more.

98
99 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President to
100 distribute this resolution to all proper leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University and
101 its partners including but not limited to the Chief Information Officer and the University Senate
102 Committee on Academic Technology.

103
104 Date of Vote: December 6th, 2024

105 **Yay Votes: 40**
106 Nay Votes: 0
107 Abstentions: 0

108 **Adopted: Yes**/No

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S Durso

Sabrina Durso.19, CGS President



DISCIPLINA IN CIVITATEM

