

## Graduate Council Resolution Opposing the Elimination of All Academic Departments

**Whereas** the graduate faculty would enthusiastically support faculty-led and faculty-driven reorganization, which could include the institution of new administrative structures to organize the work of the university, and

**Whereas** the Chancellor has proposed a sweeping reorganization of the university's operational management, and

**Whereas** the Chancellor has stated that some goals of this reorganization are to increase cross-disciplinary synergies, the number of Ph.D. students, faculty ownership of academic programs, and the overall sense of shared governance, and

**Whereas** the Graduate school operating paper provides that: 1) the Graduate Faculty is empowered to determine university-wide policy concerning the graduate programs, may formulate and recommend policy regarding research-related operations, activities and incentives, provided compliance with all regulatory and funding agencies is ensured, and may evaluate and recommend changes to new and existing university policy; and that 2) the Graduate Council is the body representing the Graduate Faculty in the determination of policies regarding programs and regarding research activities within the University, and

**Whereas** the net effect of the proposed reorganization on synergies is unclear, in that scholars always have collaborated across departments, and will continue to find collaborators across department, school, college, and other organizational lines, and

**Whereas** the process of planning and implementing this change has caused a deep feeling of disempowerment and alienation among graduate faculty whose views on the organization of their programs were not followed (with, in many cases, no reason given for going against the opinions of the faculty), and whose graduate programs could, after reorganization, be under the immediate governance of faculty outside their content area, and operationally controlled by administrators with no expertise in the content area, and

**Whereas** the graduate faculty of some proposed schools may be happy to merge into schools while others have serious concerns that they would lose control of their graduate curriculum and that their graduate programs may be threatened in a school in which their discipline represents a minority, and

**Whereas** many people in the academic world beyond SIUC recognize the existence of an operational department in the discipline as a definitive sign of a program's legitimacy and status, making such departments an important factor in recruiting and retaining high quality graduate students and faculty, and

**Whereas** many graduate faculty believe that divorcing academic and operational control of a program goes against best practices of the academic world, and

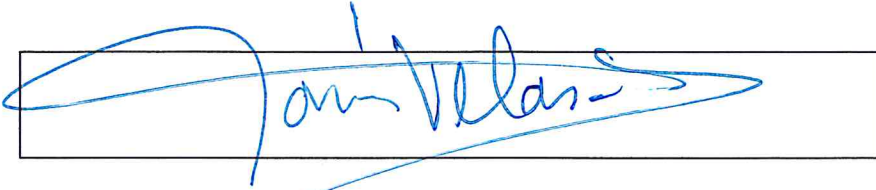
**Whereas** the graduate faculty are happy to engage in productive change for the university, but believe that such change should honor the content expertise of the faculty and maintain operational control of the implemented graduate curriculum by subject experts,

**Be it therefore resolved** that the Graduate Council opposes the universal elimination of all academic departments on campus; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Graduate Council recommends that the faculty be encouraged and allowed to pursue all productive proposals for change, including those that retain academic departments.

Date of Approval

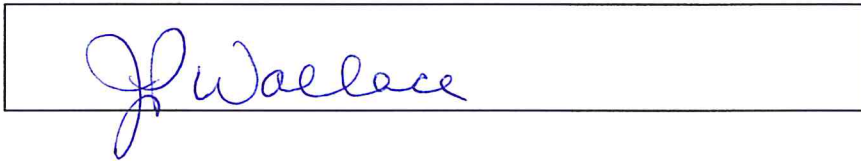
December 7, 2017



January 29, 2018

Chair, Graduate Council

Date



Feb. 6, 2018

Dean, Graduate School

Date