

1 **Title: A Resolution in Support of Science-Informed Leadership**

2
3 Sponsored by: Grant Williamson (Molecular Engineering), Micah Buuck (Physics), Michelle
4 Brault (Molecular & Cellular Biology), Kathryn Cogert (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
5 and Sarah Loeffler (Vice President of Internal Affairs)
6 Written by: Grant Williamson (Molecular Engineering)
7

8 Resolution Number: 02.16-17
9

10 WHEREAS the Regent Policy No. 5 states that “The primary mission of the University of
11 Washington is the preservation, advancement, and dissemination of knowledge”; and¹
12

13 WHEREAS science- and evidence-based decision-making in government is essential in meeting
14 the myriad challenges faced by our nation and our world, including but certainly not limited to
15 human-driven climate change and the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons; and
16

17 WHEREAS regulations by federal, state, and city governments and agencies are the primary
18 tools our society relies on to discourage the tragedy of the commons, where individual and
19 corporate actions damage public goods and services such as clean air and clean water; and
20

21 WHEREAS historically the executive branch agencies such as the National Science Foundation,
22 Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy have primarily been run by
23 highly qualified individuals, with a strong understanding of science-informed leadership; and^{2,3,4}
24

25 WHEREAS the new federal administration has not demonstrated a clear understanding of the
26 need for science-informed leadership based on its executive branch appointees. This is
27 evidenced by selections such as Scott Pruitt for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
28 administrator. He has sued the EPA multiple times to remove regulations such as the Clean
29 Power Plan even though such plans have a robust technical and scientific basis. This is just one
30 example of several nominees that have demonstrated an aversion to science-informed leadership;
31 and^{5,6,7}
32

33 WHEREAS the group Science-Informed Leadership will send a letter in January that is
34 undersigned by graduate schools around the country expressing “concern about the role of
35 science in the incoming presidential administration” and requesting “that the incoming
36 presidential administration and Congress take the following into account when appointing
37 leaders in federal agencies and departments:
38

¹ <http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/BRG/RP5.html>

² <https://www.nsf.gov/od/nsf-director-list/nsf-directors.jsp>

³ <https://www.epa.gov/history/chronology-epa-administrators>

⁴ <https://energy.gov/management/history/secretaries-energy>

⁵ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/trump-administration-appointee-tracker/>

⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/12/07/trump-names-scott-pruitt-oklahoma-attorney-general-suing-epa-on-climate-change-to-head-the-epa/?utm_term=.7577a65e8d0b

⁷ <https://www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan/clean-power-plan-existing-power-plants>

- 39 1. Appointees should demonstrate a track record of science-informed decision-making that
40 is consistent with the best available scientific evidence.
41 2. Appointees should not have conflicts-of-interest (financial or political) with industries or
42 organizations that actively seek to suppress or obfuscate science or scientific opinion.
43 3. Appointees should express a commitment to engaging the scientific community in
44 relevant policy decisions.”⁸
45

46 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT
47 SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:
48

49 THAT the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) requests that GPSS President
50 Elloise Kim email uni@scileadership.com by Friday, January 13th 2017 to have the University of
51 Washington GPSS added to the list of graduate student governments that have signed the
52 Science-Informed Leadership scientific consensus statement; and
53

54 THAT GPSS requests that the GPSS Science & Policy Steering committee send the Science-
55 Informed Leadership Consensus letter undersigned by GPSS to all United States (US) senators at
56 their District of Columbia offices and all of Washington State’s US senators' local offices by
57 Wednesday, January 18th 2017; and
58

59 THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to GPSS President Elloise Kim, University of
60 Washington President Ana Mari Cauce, University of Washington Graduate School Dean David
61 Eaton, Associated Students of the University of Washington President Daniele Meñez, and Daily
62 Editor-in-Chief Mohammed Kloub
63

64 *Presented to GPSS for approval on Wednesday January 11, 2017*

65 *Approved on January 11, 2017*

⁸ <http://www.scileadership.com/consensus.html>