



GSS CALLS FOR RENAMING OF ROGER E. AILES NEWSROOM

For Immediate Release

Contact: Angela Chapman
ac945515@ohio.edu

ATHENS - On September 6, 2016, the Ohio University Graduate Student Senate passed a resolution denouncing the alleged actions of Roger E. Ailes and calling for the immediate renaming of the WOUB Roger E. Ailes Newsroom. The text of the resolution is below.

Resolution 1617-06: Call for the Immediate Renaming of the Roger E. Ailes Newsroom

1. *Whereas*, numerous credible reports of sexual harassment and misconduct have been alleged against Ohio University alum Roger E. Ailes; and,
2. *Whereas*, the value of an Ohio University journalism degree from the E. W. Scripps School of Journalism is linked to the upstanding and professional behavior of alumni, faculty, and current students; and,
3. *Whereas*, Ohio University Policy 03.004 prohibits sexual misconduct including sexual harassment; and,
4. *Whereas*, the Ohio University Graduate Student Senate is the official voice of graduate students on the Athens campus; therefore be it,
5. *Resolved*, that the Ohio University Graduate Student Senate denounces alleged actions of Roger E. Ailes and calls for the immediate renaming of the WOUB Roger E. Ailes Newsroom; and be it further,
6. *Resolved*, that an official statement be sent to the Office of the President, the Board of Trustees, WOUB Director Tom Hodson, and local news outlets.

Sponsors:

Angie Chapman
Vice President for Communication

Colleen Carman
Women's Affairs Commissioner

Alex Burke
Vice President for Finance

Ken Ward
Vice President for Legislative Affairs

On September 7, 2016, GSS executive officers sent letters to President McDavis, Trustee Wolford, Director Hodson, and Scripps College Dean Titsworth explaining the resolution. A sample of these letters is below.

September 7, 2016

Dear President McDavis,

As you know, allegations arose this summer of sexual harassment and misconduct against former Fox News CEO and Ohio University alumnus, Roger E. Ailes. These allegations are highlighted by the lawsuit filed by Gretchen Carlson, which was settled this week by 21st Century Fox for twenty million dollars. In addition to the monetary settlement, 21st Century Fox issued a formal apology stating, "We sincerely regret and apologize for the fact that Gretchen was not treated with the respect and dignity that she and all of our colleagues deserve."

According to Ohio University Policy 03.004: Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence, and Stalking:

Ohio university prohibits sexual misconduct, relationship violence, and stalking in any of its employment situations or educational programs and activities.

This policy is an essential part of the values and mission of Ohio University, and thus compliance should be expected from all members of the OHIO community.

On September 6, 2016 the Graduate Student Senate examined Resolution 1617-06 (attached) which denounces the alleged actions of Ailes and calls for the immediate renaming of WOUB's Roger E. Ailes Newsroom. An opportunity for public comment was held, during which Sarah Grace, Ohio University alumna and candidate for 94th district state representative, voiced her support for the resolution. Following public comment, the Graduate Student Senate held debate and ultimately voted unanimously in favor of the resolution.

In light of Resolution 1617-06, it is the official stance of the Graduate Student Senate, and the graduate student constituency that we represent, that the actions of Roger E. Ailes are not in alignment with Ohio University Policy and that his name should be removed immediately from the WOUB Newsroom.

Sincerely,

Ian Armstrong, President
Angela Chapman, Vice President of Communication
Alex Burke, Vice President of Finance

###