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## NAGPS PRESIDENT ON THE RESIGNATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI PRESIDENT

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Several advocacy efforts by students at the University of Missouri have come to a head now that one of their seven demands has been met and university system President Tim Wolfe will resign. Today the former businessman announced that he will step aside amidst frustrations over his response to student concerns over racially charged incidents on campus. President Kristofferson Culmer of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) issued the following statement:

"As a student at the University of Missouri, I am pleased to see the administration listening and taking action with regards to the concerns of the student body. Unfortunately, it took extreme pressures and months of requests to reach this point. It took the courage of our student athletes and the potential loss of sport revenue. When the administration had the opportunity to address student concerns, our leadership was sadly lacking in the social and emotional intelligence needed to address the systemic problems facing, not only Mizzou, but our institutions of higher education nationwide.

Across the nation, Americans are engaging in broader conversations surrounding the country's culture of exclusion and oppression through racism, sexism and many other forms of prejudice and intolerance. Institutions of higher education are intended to be open spaces for the exchange of ideas and thoughts. When students do not feel safe, or feel ignored, this hinders that exchange – effectively negating the mission of continuing education.

At the end of the day, university administrations have an obligation to their students. Yet, when there is no open dialogue, or there is limited engagement from leadership, student activism is proving there is another outlet to share our stories and make our voices heard. NAGPS applauds these courageous individuals who represent both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, staff, and student athletes and supports them in their efforts. We are proud of our member institutions that choose to stand for students' rights at their campuses and proud to support their advocacy work on both a local and national scale."

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