Resolution: G.R. 16 (S) 2 - Endorsement of changes to the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

Summary: A resolution passing changes to the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

WHEREAS (1): the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) has charged the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (BoRR) ad hoc committee with “actively pursu[ing] the adoption of this Bill of Rights and Responsibilities”\(^1\); and,

WHEREAS (2): Conversations with faculty advisors have led to the BoRR committee unanimously adopting the following changes to the BoRR; and,

\(^1\) G.R. 15 (S) 1-A, “Endorsement of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.”
WHEREAS (3): the BoRR committee is required to bring any changes to the BoRR before the GSA for approval, as per G.R. 15 (S) 1-A; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED (1): The Graduate Student Assembly approves changes to this Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED (2): the BoRR committee will continue its charge by pushing for the adoption of this version of the BoRR.
Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

(with proposed changes underlined, in blue, and in bold)

I. Right to graduate under requirements specified by the graduate catalog at time of acceptance;¹

Responsibility to proactively fulfill program requirements;²

II. The right to university commitment to students achieving a basic standard of living;³

The responsibility to be good stewards of our resources afforded to graduate students;

III. Right to periodic reviews of performance pertaining to academic standing and/or employment status;⁴

Responsibility to act upon feedback and recommendations in order to maintain good standing with the university;

IV. Right to grievance processes that can includes graduate student peers advocates in matters of employment and academies, without fear of reprisal;⁵

* is defined as where adoption of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (BoRR) would entail an amendment to current policy

¹ Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1240, Section B.1.c. The University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School, Executive Sponsor: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. February 15, 2005. URL: http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school

² University Catalogs: The University of Texas at Austin, Graduate Catalog 2015-2017: Graduate Study: Student Responsibility. URL: http://catalog.utexas.edu/graduate/graduate-study/student-responsibility

³ The Milestones Agreement provides a feasible model for a system that could be expanded and implemented university-wide, to be accessible to all graduate students. The University of Texas at Austin, Graduate School, Milestones Agreement. URL: http://gradschool.utexas.edu/advisers-and-coordinators/milestones-information


⁵ The BoRR committee suggests an amendment to existing policy such that departmental grievance processes provide an opportunity for graduate student representation, to be determined by each Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). Current policy: Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1240, Section D. The University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School, Executive Sponsor: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. February 15, 2005.
Responsibility to voice concerns and participate in grievance process;

V. Right to nondiscrimination\(^5\) by the university in academic and employment matters;\(^5\)\(^6\)

Responsibility to not discriminate against any student, faculty, or staff member;

VI. Right to be treated respectfully and professionally by university administration and faculty;

Responsibility to conduct oneself according to the University of Texas Honor Code\(^7\) and represent the University in an appropriate professional manner;

VII. Right to representation and shared governance of the college and university, along with inclusion in formal conversations about policy changes that impact graduate students;\(^4\)\(^7\) to foster transparency.\(^8\)

Responsibility to participate in shared governance.

URL: http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school
The BoRR committee also recommends that the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) support the selection and training of graduate student peer advocates who can act as liaisons and provide support to graduate students throughout various grievance processes.

An amendment to this policy such that a grievance procedure includes a Graduate School Grievance Committee with graduate students:

\(^5\)Discrimination refers to race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability status, religion, nationality, pregnancy or family status, sexual harassment, and veteran status.

\(^6\)The University of Texas at Austin Catalog, Appendix I: Non-Discrimination Policy.

URL: http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-i/

This policy currently refers to discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, including sexual harassment, age, disability, citizenship, and veteran status, and on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; the BoRR committee proposes adding pregnancy and family status to this list.

\(^7\)Standards of Conduct. The University of Texas at Austin, Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students.

URL: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/conduct.php

\(^8\)Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1240, Section C. The University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School, Executive Sponsor: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. February 15, 2005.

URL: http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school
Appendix A – the BoRR with proposed changes

Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

I. Right to graduate under requirements specified by the graduate catalog at time of acceptance;¹
   Responsibility to proactively fulfill program requirements;²

II. The right to university commitment to students achieving a basic standard of living;
    The responsibility to be good stewards of our resources afforded to graduate students;

III. Right to periodic reviews of performance pertaining to academic standing and/or employment status;³* 
    Responsibility to act upon feedback and recommendations in order to maintain good standing with the university;

IV. Right to transparent grievance processes that can include graduate student peer advocates, without fear of reprisal;⁴* 

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¹ is defined as where adoption of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (BoRR) would entail an amendment to current policy
² Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1240, Section B.1.c. The University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School, Executive Sponsor: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. February 15, 2005. URL: http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school
³ University Catalogs: The University of Texas at Austin, Graduate Catalog 2015-2017: Graduate Study: Student Responsibility. URL: http://catalog.utexas.edu/graduate/graduate-study/student-responsibility
⁴ The BoRR committee suggests an amendment to existing policy such that departmental grievance processes provide an opportunity for graduate student representation, to be determined by each Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). Current policy: Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1240, Section D. The University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School, Executive Sponsor: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. February 15, 2005.
Responsibility to voice concerns and participate in grievance process;

V. Right to nondiscrimination by the university in academic and employment matters;5* Responsibility to not discriminate against any student, faculty, or staff member;

VI. Right to be treated respectfully and professionally by university administration and faculty;

Responsibility to conduct oneself according to the University of Texas Honor Code6 and represent the University in an appropriate professional manner;

VII. Right to representation in and shared governance of the college and university, along with inclusion in formal conversations about policy changes that impact graduate students;7 Responsibility to participate in shared governance.

URL: http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school
The BoRR committee also recommends that the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) support the selection and training of graduate student peer advocates who can act as liaisons and provide support to graduate students throughout various grievance processes.

5* The University of Texas at Austin, General Information Catalog, Appendix I: Non-Discrimination Policy.
URL: http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-i/
This policy currently refers to discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, including sexual harassment, age, disability, citizenship, and veteran status, and on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; the BoRR committee proposes adding pregnancy and family status to this list.

6 Standards of Conduct. The University of Texas at Austin, Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students.
URL: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/conduct.php

7 Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1240, Section C. The University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School, Executive Sponsor: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. February 15, 2005.
URL: http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school
Appendix B - the BoRR as initially passed

Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (as per G.R. 15 (S) 1-A)

I. Right to graduate under requirements specified by the graduate catalog at time of acceptance.¹

Responsibility to proactively fulfill program requirements;

II. The right to university commitment to a basic standard of living.

The responsibility to be good stewards of our resources afforded to graduate students;

III. Right to periodic reviews of performance pertaining to academic standing and/or employment status.

Responsibility to act upon feedback and recommendations in order to maintain good standing with the university;

IV. Right to a grievance process that includes graduate student peers in matters of employment and academics.²

Responsibility to voice concerns and participate in grievance process;

V. Right to nondiscrimination³ by the university in academic and employment matters.⁴

Responsibility to not discriminate against any student, faculty, or staff member;

VI. Right to be treated respectfully and professionally by university administration and faculty;

¹ Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1240, Section B.1.c. The University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School, Executive Sponsor: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. February 15, 2005. URL: http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school

² An amendment to this policy such that a grievance procedure includes a Graduate School Grievance Committee with graduate students: Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1240, Section D. The University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School, Executive Sponsor: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. February 15, 2005. URL: http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school

³ Discrimination refers to race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability status, religion, nationality, pregnancy or family status, sexual harassment, and veteran status.

⁴ The University of Texas at Austin Catalog, Appendix I: Non-Discrimination Policy. URL: http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-i/
Responsibility to conduct oneself according to the University of Texas Honor Code and represent the University in an appropriate professional manner;

VII. Right to representation and shared governance of the college and university, to foster transparency.

Responsibility to participate in shared governance.

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5 Standards of Conduct. The University of Texas at Austin, Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students. URL: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/conduct.php

6 Handbook of Operating Procedures 9-1240, Section C. The University of Texas at Austin, The Graduate School, Executive Sponsor: Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. February 15, 2005. URL: http://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school