

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

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Resolution: G.R. 17 (S) 12 - Resolution for Transparent Wages and Cost of Living Increases

WHEREAS (1): There are over eleven thousand graduate students at the University of Texas at Austin¹; and,

WHEREAS (2): Most graduate students at UT-Austin rely on academic employment as a primary source of income and are appointed to half-time positions; and,

WHEREAS (3): There are 4,398 graduate research assistants and graduate teaching assistants at UT this Spring 2017 semester²; and;

WHEREAS (4): Teaching assistant and graduate research assistant minimum wages are set yearly by the University, but wages vary over department and program³; and,

WHEREAS (5): The graduate research assistant minimum wage has been set at \$12.20 per hour since 2013-2014, corresponding to about \$1057 per month at a half-time rate; and,

WHEREAS (6): The teaching assistant minimum wage was raised to \$11.48 per hour in 2016-2017, after remaining at \$11.28 since 2013-2014, now corresponding to about \$995 per month; and,

WHEREAS (7): The cost of living in Austin is 11.1% above the national average⁴; and,

WHEREAS (8): Average rent in Austin increased 2.8% in 2016⁵, 7.5% in 2015⁶ and 5% in 2014⁷, and one-bedroom apartments now average \$1084 per month⁸; and,

WHEREAS (9): The slight increase in wages, 1.7% for TAs and 0% for GRAs over the

1 <https://www.utexas.edu/about/facts-and-figures>

2 pers. comm., UT Human Resources

3 <http://hr.utexas.edu/student/compensation.html>

4 <https://www.forbes.com/places/tx/austin/>

5 <https://www.homeunion.com/blog/homeunion-names-the-highest-growth-rental-markets/>

6 <http://www.mystatesman.com/business/austin-apartment-rents-hit-record-high-2015/yMZsvxXWgQEwx3GO7w1cN/>

7 <http://www.deptofnumbers.com/rent/texas/austin/>

8 <https://www.rentcafe.com/average-rent-market-trends/us/tx/austin/>

past 3 years, is incommensurate with the increase in average rents, alone, over the same period of time; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT (1): The Graduate Student Assembly at the University of Texas at Austin calls upon the Graduate School to collect and publish the teaching assistant and graduate research assistant stipend amounts for all graduate programs; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (2): The Graduate Student Assembly requests a wage increase be applied to all graduate academic employment positions commensurate with trends in the cost-of-living increase; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (3): That this resolution be sent to the Dean of the Graduate College, the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, John Dalton, the Vice President of Student Success, the Office of the Dean of Students, and *The Daily Texan*.