G.R. 14 (S) 8

The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin

Resolution: G.R. 14 (S) 8

Introduced By: GSA Executive Committee

Action Taken: Passed

Certified: ________________________

David Villarreal
GSA President

G.R. 14 (S) 8: In Commemoration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Graduate Student Assembly

Summary: A resolution publicly announcing the twentieth anniversary of the Graduate Student Assembly and which thanks the most recent university administrators who consistently provide their guidance and support to the GSA. Furthermore, a resolution that supports further planning and implementation of events and material to commemorate the occasion.

Whereas (1): The most recent American Association of University Professors (AAUP) “Statement on Graduate Students” declares that, "Graduate students should have a voice in institutional governance at the program, department, college, graduate school, and university levels”\(^1\); and,

\(^1\text{http://www.utexasgsa.org/testing/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/statement-on-graduate-students.pdf}\)
Whereas (2): A pioneering student organization representing the interests of graduate students at The University of Texas at Austin was officially registered with the Dean of Students on August 11, 1968; and,

Whereas (4): That subsequently this graduate student representative body became ratified under the name “Council of Graduate Students” on May 3, 1977; and,

Whereas (5): That on April 6, 1994, the Graduate Assembly of the University of Texas at Austin passed the following resolution:

"In appreciation of the vital role that graduate students play in the mission of The University of Texas at Austin and in recognition of the special circumstances of their dual role as students and teachers, the Graduate Assembly hereby expresses its support for the cooperative efforts of the graduate students, the executive officers of The University and the Graduate School in the development of a representative graduate student governance structure. Such a body should have as its primary responsibility the advocacy of graduate student and graduate program interests. This advocacy role might include, but not be limited to, the responsibility of providing graduate student nominees for such university bodies as the Graduate Assembly, University Council, Student Fee Committee, the Committee on the Responsibilities, Rights, and Welfare of Teaching Assistants and Assistant Instructors, and other committees as appropriate to the role of representing graduate student interests. The Assembly recognizes that the development of an effective graduate student governance structure must include institutional support in the form of both space and financial resources commensurate with the representative role of the newly formed body;" and,
Whereas (6): In a letter dated November 4, 1994 from then Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies William S. Livingston to then University President Robert Berdahl, the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) was officially recognized by the University as the official representative body of student governance for graduate students; and, 

Whereas (7): The University’s Handbook of Operating Procedures No. 9-1240 states: "Graduate students at The University of Texas at Austin are represented principally by the Graduate Student Assembly, which is their official means of communication with the administration of the University. The Graduate Student Assembly selects six of its members to serve as voting members of the Graduate Assembly. The Graduate Student Assembly reports administratively to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Graduate Student Assembly are maintained in the office of the Graduate Student Assembly"; and 

Whereas (8): The Graduate Student Assembly, a Legislative Student Organization recognized by the Office of the Dean of Students, is the elected governing body of the 13,000 graduate and professional students at the University of Texas at Austin that has faithfully served interests of all graduate and professional students at the university over the past twenty years. 

Therefore, 

Let It Be 

Resolved (1): That November 4, 2014 shall mark the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding and establishment of the Graduate Student Assembly at The University of Texas at Austin with celebrations beginning on April 6, 2014 that commemorate the Graduate Assembly’s historic passage of the 1994 resolution and that continue throughout the 2014-2015 academic year; and, 

2 https://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school
Be it

Further

Resolved (2): That the Graduate Student Assembly shall gladly continue in its mission to be the official voice of graduate students before the university administration; and,

Be it

Further

Resolved (3): That the Graduate Student Assembly hereby continues to express its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Judith H. Langlois, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Gage E. Paine, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Dean of Students for their service as GSA advisors; and,

Be it

Further

Resolved (4): That the membership and leadership of the Graduate Student Assembly wishes to thank all past and present members of the GSA for their commitment and service to the graduate students at The University of Texas at Austin.

Be it

Further

Resolved (5): That the Graduate Student Assembly desires to thank all current and former staff in the Office of Graduate Studies and the Dean of Students for their support of the GSA including Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies John Dalton; and,

Be it

Further

Resolved (6): That official copies of this resolution be delivered to William Powers Jr., President; Dr. Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President; Dr. Gage E. Paine, the Vice President;
for Student Affairs; Dr. Judith H. Langlois, Vice Provost and the Dean of the
Graduate School; John Dalton, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Gregory
Fenves, Executive Vice President and Provost; Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, the Dean of
Students; Michael White, Chair of the Graduate Assembly; Hillary Hart, Chair of the
Faculty Council and the Deans of All Colleges.