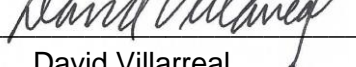


The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin

Resolution: G.R. 14 (S) 7

Introduced By: Virginia Luehrsen
Rep., School of Information
Guy Cole
Rep., Statistics

Action Taken: Passed

Certified: 
David Villarreal
President, GSA

Regarding Staff Education Assistance for PhD Candidates

Summary: After entering candidacy, PhD Candidates that are also employed fulltime by the University are no longer eligible for staff education assistance for courses 399R and 399W, which are required to graduate.

Whereas (1): Full-time employees at the University of Texas at Austin are granted a staff educational benefit that covers one course a semester, regardless of credit hours, as they pursue a graduate degree¹;

Whereas (2): Upon entering candidacy, doctoral students are required to take a minimum of one semester each of 399R, Dissertation Reading, and 399W, Dissertation Writing, as prerequisites to graduation;

Whereas (3): According to the University of Texas at Austin Graduate Catalog, doctoral students must remain continually enrolled through the long-semesters to maintain status as graduate students at the University of Texas at Austin;

Whereas (4): As full-time employees, most PhD Candidates are working part-time towards degree completion, and often have to register for multiple semesters of 399R and/or 399W, at the cost of \$2,166 per semester²;

¹ <https://www.utexas.edu/hr/current/career/seb.html>

² Cost per 3 credit semester for 2013-2014 school year

Whereas (5): While all other required courses are covered under the staff educational benefit, no dissertation courses ending in 99 are considered eligible for tuition assistance, despite their requirement for graduation.

Therefore

Be It

Resolved (1): The Graduate Student Assembly, as the official legislative student organization for graduate students, endorses a review of the University of Texas at Austin's staff education benefit for full time employees to include both 399R and 399W as courses eligible for assistance due to their requirement for completion of degree.

Be It

Further

Resolved (2): That this resolution be shared with the following individuals and entities within the University of Texas at Austin: Dean of Graduate Studies, Judith Langlois; Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, John Dalton; Dean of Students, Soncia Reagins-Lilly; Vice-Provost and Registrar, Shelby Stanfield; Director of UT Human Resources, Jim McElroy.