

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

**Sponsors:** Samantha Fuchs, GSA President  
Kathryn Abercrombie, GSA Legislative Affairs Director

**Resolution:** G.R. 19 (S) 2 – A Resolution in Response on behalf of Universities in Texas to Federal Changes to Immigration Policy Affecting International Students

**Executive Summary:** The attached letter outlines recent federal policy changes and proposals that affect international student visas. G.R. 19 (S) 2 supports the united opposition to these policy changes and proposals amongst the equivalents of Graduate Student Assembly at Baylor University, Rice University, Texas A&M University, Texas State University, University of Houston, and University of Texas at San Antonio.

These policies are:

- 1) Outlined by a memorandum posted May 2018<sup>1</sup> that states international students will accrue “unlawful presence” immediately upon the date of expiration for a F, J, or M visa, prior to a formal finding of violation.
- 2) Outlined by a policy memorandum posted July 2018<sup>2</sup> which authorizes the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to deny visa applications and petitions without providing any Request for Evidence (RFE) or Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID).
- 3) A proposal expected September 2019 by the Department of Homeland Security to set a uniform and fixed maximum period of stay for student visas.<sup>3</sup>

Because the above policies are and would be harmful to the livelihood of international students for various reasons listed in the attached letter, this G.R. seeks to support international students, express this Assembly’s opposition for the described federal policies, and, upon passage, would prompt a copy of the attached letter to be sent to Texas federal Representatives and Senators.

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[https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Outreach/Draft%20Memorandum%20for%20Comment/AccrualofUnlawfulPresenceFJMNonimmigrantsMEMO\\_v2.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Outreach/Draft%20Memorandum%20for%20Comment/AccrualofUnlawfulPresenceFJMNonimmigrantsMEMO_v2.pdf)

2

[https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/AFM\\_10\\_Standards\\_for\\_RFEs\\_and\\_NOIDs\\_FIN\\_AL2.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/AFM_10_Standards_for_RFEs_and_NOIDs_FIN_AL2.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://monitor.icef.com/2018/10/us-planning-introduce-term-limits-student-visas/>

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**WHEREAS** (1): The Graduate Student Assembly of the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) represents the voice of the graduate and professional students at UT Austin, and advocates for the academic, professional, and social wellbeing of all students at the institution; and,

**WHEREAS** (2): UT Austin enrolls high numbers of international students in all areas of study in graduate education from all corners of the globe<sup>4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS** (3): The number of international students enrolled at institutions in the UT System has declined from 9.2% of the total student body in Fall 2015<sup>5</sup> to 8.6% in Fall 2017; and,

**WHEREAS** (4): A coalition of students representing the graduate and professional student governments of Texas public and private Universities, including UT Austin, Rice University, Baylor University, Texas State University, Texas A&M University, University of Houston, and the University of Texas at San Antonio convened to discuss federal policy changes which negatively affect graduate students; and,

**WHEREAS** (5): This coalition of Texas Universities has written a letter to be sent to the federal legislators of Texas calling for revision of a number of policies which negatively affect international students in order to protect international students currently enrolled as well as prospective students considering a future education at a University in Texas or anywhere in the United States; now,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (1): The Graduate Student Assembly adopts the propositions in the corresponding letter as our official stance; and,

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<sup>4</sup> <https://utexas.app.box.com/v/2016report>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.utsystem.edu/sites/default/files/documents/publication/2017/fast-facts-2016/fastfacts2016feb2017v2update.pdf>  
<https://utsystem.edu/sites/default/files/documents/publication/2018/fast-facts-september-2018/fast-facts-09-2018.pdf>

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (2):** Copies of this bill be sent to all Texas federal legislators.

**PASSED** by the GSA General Assembly on February 27, 2019.

Signature of the GSA President 