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The Graduate Student Assembly  
The University of Texas at Austin

Introduced By: The Student Affairs Committee

Action Taken: Passed

Certified: 

*President, Graduate Student Assembly*

Resolution: G.R. 15 (S) 1- Endorsement of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

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

Whereas (1): The Graduate Student Association (GSA), a Legislative Student Organization recognized by the Office of the Dean of Students, is the elected governing body and the voice of the 13,000 graduate and professional students at the University of Texas at Austin; and,

Whereas (2): The paid and unpaid services of graduate students benefit the community of the University of Texas. Providing contributions as teachers, mentors, tutors, research assistants, researchers, scholars, innovators, administrators, conference organizers, journal editors, and other roles, graduate students are critical university resources. They

25 also receive competitive grants and fellowships that bring prestige to the university, its  
26 students, its faculty, and its administrators; and,

27

28 Whereas (3): Establishing these rights and responsibilities for graduate students will  
29 allow the University of Texas to continue to recruit and cultivate the best and brightest  
30 graduate students from across the country and around the world; and,

31

32 Whereas (4): The rights and responsibilities of graduate students outlined in this Bill will  
33 continue to ensure a productive, mutually beneficial, and professional community at the  
34 University of Texas at Austin; and,

35

36 Therefore

37 Let it be

38 Resolved (1): The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) approves the Graduate Student Bill  
39 of Rights and Responsibilities; and,

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41 Be it Further

42 Resolved (2): The GSA encourages the adoption of this Bill and changes in policies that  
43 establish this Bill of Rights and Responsibilities; and,

44

45 Be it Further

46 Resolved (3): The GSA directs the GSA Executive Committee and all interested parties  
47 to actively pursue the adoption of this Bill of Rights and Responsibilities; and,

48

49 Be it

50 Further

51 Resolved (4): Copies of this Resolution shall be distributed to President Bill Powers,  
52 Provost Greg Fenves, Dean of Graduate Studies Judith Langlois, Vice President for  
53 Student Affairs Gage Paine, Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Assistant Dean John  
54 Dalton, Faculty Council Secretary Dean Neikirk, Faculty Council Chair William  
55 Beckner, Graduate Assembly Chair Jay Hartzell, Senate of College Councils President  
56 Geetika Jerath, and Student Government President Kori Rady and these changes be  
57 codified with each party with any and all changes being brought before the Graduate  
58 Student Assembly for approval.

59

## Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

60 I. Right to graduate under requirements specified by the graduate catalog at time of  
61 acceptance.<sup>1</sup>

62 Responsibility to proactively fulfill program requirements;

63 II. Right to university commitment to a basic standard of living.

64 Responsibility to be good stewards of the resources afforded to graduate students;

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

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

69 IV. Right to a grievance process that includes graduate student peers in matters of  
70 employment and academics.<sup>2</sup>

71 Responsibility to voice concerns and participate in grievance process;

72 V. Right to nondiscrimination<sup>3</sup> by the university in academic and employment  
73 matters.<sup>4</sup>

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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>

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

<sup>4</sup> The University of Texas at Austin Catalog, Appendix I: Non-Discrimination Policy. URL: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-i/>

77            Responsibility to conduct oneself according to the University of Texas Honor  
78            Code<sup>5</sup> and represent the University in an appropriate professional manner;  
79    VII.    Right to representation and shared governance of the college, and university, to  
80            foster transparency.<sup>6</sup>  
81            Responsibility to participate in shared governance.

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<sup>5</sup> 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>

<sup>6</sup> 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>