

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

Author(s): Christina Baze, *President, GSA*

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Sponsor(s): John Dalton, *Assistant Dean, Graduate School*

Resolution: G.R. 20 (S) 1 - A Statement in Support of Parental Accommodation Policies at all Colleges and Schools

WHEREAS (1): It is not uncommon for students to start or grow their families when they are in graduate and/or professional school; and,

WHEREAS (2): Currently, six University of Texas Austin (UT Austin) colleges and schools¹ have parental accommodation policies that allow academic and employment accommodations and parental leave²; and,

WHEREAS (3): There is no formal policy requiring accommodations for graduate student parents at most colleges and schools at UT Austin. While individual departments and faculty will often allow flexibility in coursework and academic milestone completion, there is no accountability for departments nor faculty to do so at most colleges and schools at UT Austin; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT (1): The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) affirms that life events such as the birth or adoption of a child should not prevent academic advancement or success; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (2): The remaining 10 colleges and schools with graduate and professional programs (College of Education, College of Fine Arts, Dell Medical School, Jackson School of Geosciences, LBJ School of Public Affairs, School of Architecture, School of Information, School of Law, School of Nursing, and Steve Hicks School of Social Work) develop and implement parental accommodation policies similar to those currently in use; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (3): That this resolution be sent to President Gregory Fenves, *President of the University of Texas at Austin*; Dr. Maurie McInnis, *Executive Vice President and Provost*; Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, *Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*; Dr. Mark Smith, *Dean of The Graduate School*; John Dalton, *Assistant Dean of The Graduate School*; Sharon L. Wood, *Dean of Cockrell*

¹ College of Liberal Arts, College of Natural Science, Cockrell School of Engineering, McCombs School of Business, Moody College of Communication, and College of Pharmacy

² <https://gradschool.utexas.edu/graduate-student-parents>

School of Engineering; Charles Martinez, Jr., Dean of College of Education; Doug Dempster, Dean of College of Fine Arts; S. Claiborne “Clay” Johnston, Dean of Dell Medical School; Claudia Mora, Dean of Jackson School of Geosciences; Angela Evans, Dean of LBJ School of Public Affairs; Michelle Addington, Dean of School of Architecture; Eric T. Meyer, Dean of School of Information; Ward Farnsworth, Dean of School of Law; Alexa K. Stuijbergen, Dean of School of Nursing; Luis H. Zayas, Dean of Steve Hicks School of Social Work; the Austin-American Statesman, and The Daily Texan.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Baze". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial 'C'.

Signature of the GSA President (Christina Baze)