

The Graduate Student Assembly

The University of Texas at Austin

Resolution: G.R. 13 (F) 8

Introduced By: Executive Board, GSA

Action Taken: _____

Certified: _____

Columbia Mishra
President, GSA

In Support of President Powers' Vision for the University of Texas at Austin

Summary: A resolution supporting President's Powers' vision for the University of Texas at Austin, as laid out in his State of the University address.

- 1 **Whereas (1)** The Student Government and the Senate of College Councils passed J.R.1,¹ a
2 resolution supporting President Powers vision as stated at his annual State of the
3 University address on September 11, 2013¹, where he outlined the status of his
4 efforts; and
- 5 **Whereas (2)** In his address, President Powers stated that his goal was for UT-Austin to be “the
6 best public university in the nation”; and,
- 7 **Whereas (3)** President Powers assumed the role of the Chair of the Board of Directors of the
8 Association of American Universities on October 22, 2013²; and,
- 9 **Whereas (4)** The Association of American Universities is a collection of the nation’s premier
10 research universities, and its Chair has the unique position of leading this prestigious
11 body on a national level²; and,

¹ Powers, William, Jr. "Address on the State of the University." Speech, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, September 11, 2013.

<http://www.utexas.edu/president/speeches/utexas130.html>. ¹JR 1- In Support of President Powers' Vision for the University of Texas at Austin

- 12 **Whereas (5)** During President Powers' tenure, UT-Austin has gone from being unranked in the
13 2010-2011 Times Higher Education World University Rankings to 25th in 2012-
14 2013³; and
- 15 **Whereas (6)** During President Powers' tenure, UT-Austin has increased the number of "top five"
16 graduate programs by 75% (from 9 to 16)³; and
- 17 **Whereas (7)** UT-Austin has 59 "top ten" programs and 111 "top 25" programs³; and,
- 18 **Whereas (8)** President Powers has led UT-Austin to these high rankings, increased the reputation
19 of the university's academic programs, and improved the academic climate on
20 campus while contending with the nation's worst economic crisis in nearly a century,
21 decreased funding from the Texas Legislature, and flat tuition revenue; and,
- 22 **Whereas (9)** UT-Austin has the "lowest per student, per year support from tuition, general
23 revenue, and the Available University Fund combined"³ when compared to UT-
24 Austin's peer group; and,
- 25 **Whereas (10)** It would take \$136 million in additional annual funds for UT-Austin to be at the
26 median of this group³; and,
- 27 **Whereas (11)** President Powers stated in his address "we are witnessing a massive, historic public
28 disinvestment in higher education" proved by a 30% drop in funding per student
29 since 1988³; and,
- 30 **Whereas (12)** President Powers stated in his address that the reason for the success of UT-Austin
31 was "the talent and hard work of our faculty and staff"; and,

³ Powers, William, Jr. "Address on the State of the University." Speech, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, September 11, 2013.
<http://www.utexas.edu/president/speeches/utexas130.html>.

- 32 **Whereas (13)** President Powers stated in his address that there have been “only sporadic raises, and
33 these have not been enough to keep up” to retain our best faculty and staff; and,
- 34 **Whereas (14)** President Powers stated in his address “strengthening our own ability to attract and
35 retain faculty in a very competitive world needs to be our highest long-term priority”;
36 and,
- 37 **Whereas (15)** President Powers has led UT-Austin on its most ambitious capital campaign in its
38 history, and despite the severe economic recession has achieved 75% of the initial
39 goal with a year remaining⁴; therefore let it be,
- 40 **Resolved (1)** The University of Texas at Austin Graduate Student Assembly supports J.R.1 and
41 lauds President Powers for his admirable work in moving UT-Austin towards its goal
42 of becoming the best public university in the nation; and, be it further
- 43 **Resolved (2)** The University of Texas at Austin Graduate Student Assembly endorses President
44 Powers’ call for faculty and staff raises in order for UT-Austin to retain its best talent
45 so that it may continue its renowned excellence; and, be it further
- 46 **Resolved (3)** The University of Texas at Austin Graduate Student Assembly endorses President
47 Powers’ vision of giving authority and resources necessary to departmental units for
48 them to succeed and lift UT-Austin up as a whole; and, be it further
- 49 **Resolved (4)** The University of Texas at Austin Graduate Student Assembly fully supports
50 President Powers in his role as the Chair of the Association of American
51 Universities, a prominent national role that provides him with the opportunity to
52 shape national higher education policy; and, be it further

⁴ Powers, William, Jr. "Address on the State of the University." Speech, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, September 11, 2013.
<http://www.utexas.edu/president/speeches/utexas130.html>.

53 **Resolved (5)** That this resolution be sent to Mr. WILLIAM POWERS JR., President; Ms. NANCY
54 BRAZZIL, Deputy to the President; Mr. CHARLES ROECKLE, Deputy to the President;
55 Mr. GREGORY FENVES, Executive Vice President and Provost; Mr. GEOFF
56 LEAVENWORTH, Chief Communications Officer; All College/School Deans; Ms.
57 LESLIE CEDAR, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Ex-Students'
58 Association of The University of Texas; Mr. FRANCISCO CIGARROA, Chancellor of
59 The University of Texas System; Mr. PAUL FOSTER, Chairman of the Board of
60 Regents of The University of Texas System; and the Editor of *The Daily Texan* and
61 other media outlets as deemed necessary.