

The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin

Resolution: G.R. 13 (F) 6

Introduced By: David Villarreal
Deepjyoti Deka

Action Taken: _____

Certified: _____
Columbia Mishra
President, GSA

In Support of Exit Survey for Graduate Students

Summary: A resolution requesting The Graduate School of The University of Texas at Austin to adopt and implement exit surveys for graduate and professional students upon their completion or departure from their course of study at the University.

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

Whereas (2): The University of Texas at Austin does not currently conduct exit surveys of graduate students to evaluate their academic and socio-cultural experiences upon culmination of their period of study at the University.

Whereas (3): A few departments conduct exit surveys of their graduating Master's students, such as the Department of Architecture.

Whereas (4): The GSA has been made aware of and independently verified similar comprehensive and voluntary exit surveys conducted on graduate students by multiple peer institutions across the United States, such as University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Washington-Seattle, University of California at Berkeley, amongst others; and,

Whereas (5): Typical Exit Surveys provide a compilation of questions and solicit comments regarding all facets of graduate student life at the University including but not limited to the following areas: academic advising, availability of essential research and scholarly resources, all aspects including professional, academic, and otherwise of the graduate student work-research environment, the financial salaries and benefits provided by academic appointments, and the conditions of graduate student housing and graduate student life at the University; and,

Whereas (6): The GSA recognizes that an exit survey will provide insight into many aspects of the graduate and professional student experience during their stay at the University; and,

Whereas (7): The GSA recognizes that an exit survey will help identify possible areas for improvement that are necessary for building academic excellence at the Graduate School as well as identify key components of the University that help sustain current academic excellence within the University; and,

Whereas (8): The GSA recognizes that in the 2013 State of the University Address, President Powers mentioned “A critical part of our job is to assess what changes make us better, and what needs to continue to define our essence.”; and,

Whereas (9): The GSA recognizes the commitment of the Graduate School and the University in facilitating a healthy and rewarding experience for graduate and professional students at the University.

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved (1): That the GSA requests and recommends that the University of Texas at Austin conduct voluntary exit surveys for graduate and professional students upon their severance from the University to collect information about important aspects of their holistic experience at the University; and,

Be it

Further

Resolved (2): The Exit Survey shall provide a compilation of questions and solicit comments regarding all facets of graduate student life at the University including but not limited to the following areas: academic advising, availability of essential research and scholarly resources, all aspects including professional, academic, and otherwise of the graduate student work-research environment, the financial salaries and benefits provided by academic appointments, and the conditions of graduate student housing and graduate student life at the University; and,

Be it

Further

Resolved (3): That official copies of this resolution be delivered to Mr. William Powers Jr., President; Mr. Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President; Mr. Gregory Fenves, Executive Vice President and Provost; Dr. Judith H. Langlois, the Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Janet Ellzey, Vice Provost; Dr. Terry Kahn, Associate Dean of Graduate Student Services; Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, the Dean of Students; Dr. Gage E. Paine, the Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Hillary Hart, Chair of the Faculty Council; Dr. Marvin D. Shepherd, Chair of the Responsibilities, Rights, and Welfare of Graduate Student Academic Employees Committee; Members of the Graduate Assembly, and the Deans of All Colleges.