


The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin

Resolution: G.R. 14 (S) 8

Introduced By: GSA Executive Committee

Action Taken: Passed

Certified: 

David Villarreal

GSA President

G.R. 14 (S) 8: In Commemoration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Graduate Student Assembly

Summary: A resolution publicly announcing the twentieth anniversary of the Graduate Student Assembly and which thanks the most recent university administrators who consistently provide their guidance and support to the GSA. Furthermore, a resolution that supports further planning and implementation of events and material to commemorate the occasion.

Whereas (1): The most recent American Association of University Professors (AAUP) “Statement on Graduate Students” declares that, "Graduate students should have a voice in institutional governance at the program, department, college, graduate school, and university levels"¹; and,

¹ <http://www.utexasgsa.org/testing/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/statement-on-graduate-students.pdf>

23 **Whereas (2):** A pioneering student organization representing the interests of graduate students at
24 The University of Texas at Austin was officially registered with the Dean of Students
25 on August 11, 1968; and,

26 **Whereas (4):** That subsequently this graduate student representative body became ratified under
27 the name "Council of Graduate Students" on May 3, 1977; and,

28 **Whereas (5):** That on April 6, 1994, the Graduate Assembly of the University of Texas at Austin
29 passed the following resolution:

30 "In appreciation of the vital role that graduate students play in the mission of The
31 University of Texas at Austin and in recognition of the special circumstances of their
32 dual role as students and teachers, the Graduate Assembly hereby expresses its
33 support for the cooperative efforts of the graduate students, the executive officers of
34 The University and the Graduate School in the development of a representative
35 graduate student governance structure. Such a body should have as its primary
36 responsibility the advocacy of graduate student and graduate program interests. This
37 advocacy role might include, but not be limited to, the responsibility of providing
38 graduate student nominees for such university bodies as the Graduate Assembly,
39 University Council, Student Fee Committee, the Committee on the Responsibilities,
40 Rights, and Welfare of Teaching Assistants and Assistant Instructors, and other
41 committees as appropriate to the role of representing graduate student interests. The
42 Assembly recognizes that the development of an effective graduate student
43 governance structure must include institutional support in the form of both space and
44 financial resources commensurate with the representative role of the newly formed
45 body;" and,

46 **Whereas (6):** In a letter dated November 4, 1994 from then Vice President and Dean of Graduate
47 Studies William S. Livingston to then University President Robert Berdahl, the
48 Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) was officially recognized by the University as the
49 official representative body of student governance for graduate students; and,

50 **Whereas (7):** The University's Handbook of Operating Procedures No. 9-1240 states:

51 "Graduate students at The University of Texas at Austin are represented principally
52 by the Graduate Student Assembly, which is their official means of communication
53 with the administration of the University. The Graduate Student Assembly selects six
54 of its members to serve as voting members of the Graduate Assembly. The Graduate
55 Student Assembly reports administratively to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate
56 Studies. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Graduate Student Assembly are
57 maintained in the office of the Graduate Student Assembly"²; and

58 **Whereas (8):** The Graduate Student Assembly, a Legislative Student Organization recognized by
59 the Office of the Dean of Students, is the elected governing body of the 13,000
60 graduate and professional students at the University of Texas at Austin that has
61 faithfully served interests of all graduate and professional students at the university
62 over the past twenty years.

63 **Therefore,**

64 **Let It Be**

65 **Resolved (1):** That November 4, 2014 shall mark the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding and
66 establishment of the Graduate Student Assembly at The University of Texas at Austin
67 with celebrations beginning on April 6, 2014 that commemorate the Graduate
68 Assembly's historic passage of the 1994 resolution and that continue throughout the
69 2014-2015 academic year; and,

² <https://www.policies.utexas.edu/policies/graduate-school>

70 **Be it**

71 **Further**

72 **Resolved (2):** That the Graduate Student Assembly shall gladly continue in its mission to be the

73 official voice of graduate students before the university administration; and,

74 **Be it**

75 **Further**

76 **Resolved (3):** That the Graduate Student Assembly hereby continues to express its heartfelt

77 gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Judith H. Langlois, Vice Provost and Dean of

78 Graduate Studies, Dr. Gage E. Paine, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Dr.

79 Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Dean of Students for their service as GSA advisors; and,

80 **Be it**

81 **Further**

82 **Resolved (4):** That the membership and leadership of the Graduate Student Assembly wishes to

83 thank all past and present members of the GSA for their commitment and service to

84 the graduate students at The University of Texas at Austin.

85 **Be it**

86 **Further**

87 **Resolved (5):** That the Graduate Student Assembly desires to thank all current and former staff in

88 the Office of Graduate Studies and the Dean of Students for their support of the GSA

89 including Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies John Dalton; and,

90 **Be it**

91 **Further**

92 **Resolved (6):** That official copies of this resolution be delivered to William Powers Jr., President;

93 Dr. Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President; Dr. Gage E. Paine, the Vice President

94 for Student Affairs; Dr. Judith H. Langlois, Vice Provost and the Dean of the
95 Graduate School; John Dalton, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Gregory
96 Fenves, Executive Vice President and Provost; Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, the Dean of
97 Students; Michael White, Chair of the Graduate Assembly; Hillary Hart, Chair of the
98 Faculty Council and the Deans of All Colleges.