

The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin

Resolution: G.R. 14 (S) 4

Introduced By: David Villarreal

Action Taken: Passed

Certified: Columbia Mishra

Columbia Mishra

GSA President

G.R. 14 (S) 4: In Support of Graduate Student Representation in All Matters Related to University
Tuition Changes

*Summary: A resolution supporting the Tuition Working Group’s recent decision, endorsed by
President Bill Powers, to maintain graduate and professional tuition rates at the same unchanged
level for the coming academic year. Furthermore, a resolution requesting that the three Legislative
Student Organizations representing students work together in all future matters related to tuition
policy.*

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 Graduate Student Assembly appreciates the decision by the working group

25 comprised of three undergraduates including Andrew Clark, President of the Senate
26 of College Councils, Horatio Villarreal, Student Government President, and Michelle
27 Moon, senior, to recommend no tuition and fees increases for graduate and
28 professional students; and,

29 **Whereas (3):** Tuition and fees collected by graduate and professional students, who are enrolled in
30 each University college and school, continue to support the overall financial health
31 and well-being of The University of Texas at Austin; and,

32 **Whereas (4):** Changes to tuition and fees made to any segment of the University student
33 population have the potential to affect all University students, whether at present or
34 in the future; and,

35 **Whereas (5):** The Board of Regents relies on the tuition recommendations endorsed by the
36 University President in adjusting rates of campus tuition and fees for all
37 undergraduate and graduate students in each college and school; and,

38 **Whereas (6):** The Board of Regents announced their instructions for the Tuition Policy Advisory
39 Committee far later than usual, forcing the creation of an *ad hoc* working group to
40 investigate tuition in a much more limited scope than usual, and limiting time for due
41 deliberation; and,

42 **Whereas (7):** The Graduate Student Assembly believes that decisions are best arrived at via a
43 consensus between appointees from the three Legislative Student Organizations.

44 **Therefore**

45 **Let it be**

46 **Resolved (1):** We request that the GSA, SCC, and SG each be allowed at least one representative
47 to sit on any committee charged with tuition policy affecting students of any status;
48 and,

49 **Be it**

50 **Further**

51 **Resolved (2):** We request that each Legislative Student Organization's appointees be included in
52 all matters related to tuition and fees regardless of whether tuition policy discussions
53 occur within the officially constituted Tuition Policy Advisory Committee or through
54 informal working groups; and,

55 **Be it**

56 **Further**

57 **Resolved (3):** We ask that the Board of Regents makes all efforts to provide instructions for the UT
58 Tuition Policy Advisory Committee with sufficient time to allow full deliberation
59 over the merits of tuition changes, with maximum student involvement; and,

60 **Be it**

61 **Further**

62 **Resolved (4):** That official copies of this resolution be delivered to Dr. Judith H. Langlois, the
63 Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Michael White, Chair of the Graduate Assembly;
64 Dr. Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President; Dr. Gregory Fenves, Executive Vice
65 President and Provost; Kevin Hegarty, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer;
66 Dr. Hillary Hart, Chair of the Faculty Council; and the Deans of All Colleges; The
67 *Daily Texan*; Andrew Clark, President of the Senate of College Councils; Horacio
68 Villarreal, Student Government President; Michelle Moon, undergraduate senior.