



April 20, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

In keeping with the Chancellor's expressed priority to strengthen graduate education, we write to support the Graduate Student Congress' efforts to create a more independent student government for graduate-professional students. Acknowledging the unique place of our graduate-professional students on this campus, a more autonomous body is the most effective way for them to participate in shared governance here at the University of Arkansas.

Graduate-professional students serve a vital role on this campus, not only as students, but also as researchers, teachers, and drivers of economic development. Their needs are not the same as undergraduate students. This is why we believe in a student government that has two foci – one on undergraduate students and one on graduate-professional students.

The proposed Graduate-Professional Student Congress (GPSC) will advance the cause of graduate education here at the U of A. Through better representation, reallocation of graduate-professional student fees, and increased programming, the GPSC will improve the lives and productivity of the more than 4,500 graduate-professional students who call the University of Arkansas home.

We are excited that graduate and professional students are involved in student government, and look forward to the contributions the GPSC will make to our campus community. Therefore, we urge all parties involved to swiftly adopt the creation of a GPSC that is more distinctly defined.

Sincerely,

Dean

Associate Dean