Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

ASG Senate Resolution No. 14
Author(s): Senator Bennett Perkins, Senator Gabi Gies, GPSC President Pro Tempore A.G. Holdier
Sponsor(s): Senator Colen Morrow, Senator Faith Gentry, Senator Garrett Meadows

A Resolution To Support GPSC Resolution 04-08

Whereas, the attached legislation was passed with a vote of 45-0-2 of Pass-Fail-Abstain by GPSC in January, and

Whereas, Arkansas is considered a premiere research institution, being in the top 3 percent nationally according to The Carnegie Foundation, and

Whereas, graduate student experience is closely linked to undergraduate experience, as many undergraduate students will choose to attend graduate school here. Additionally, graduate students often serve as lecturers, teaching assistants, and other campus positions that factor into the undergraduate student experience. As such, the defense of graduate research programs also affects undergraduate students.

A RESOLUTION TO DEFEND UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS RESEARCH

Author: A.G. Holdier

WHEREAS, academic research is a fundamental professional responsibility of every one of the 1 more than 4500 graduate and professional students currently enrolled at the University of Arkansas;

WHEREAS, academic research includes a wide variety of activities including, but not limited to, performing experiments, administering surveys, studying materials in libraries and archives, and discussing each step of the research process with peers;

WHEREAS, academic research requires significant financial support; 9

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas materially benefits from successful graduate student research in many ways including, but not limited to:
1. institutional ownership of intellectual property, such as designs and patents produced by university-sponsored research,
2. increased prestige and university name-recognition, leading to increased enrollment (particularly increased graduate student enrollment),
3. augmented support for university professors, many of whom depend on graduate student labor;

WHEREAS, the GPSC has successfully administered three distinct funding programs since 2018 to materially support graduate student research:
1. the Travel Grant to provide up to $500 for an applicant presenting original research at a professional conference,
2. the Research Grant ("GPSC Tiffany Marcantonio Research Grant") to provide up to $1500 for an applicant performing original research,
3. the Professional and Internship Grant Sponsorship ("PIGS") Award to provide up to $500 for an applicant seeking professional development necessary for their studies;

WHEREAS, each of these three funding programs were modeled explicitly on extant funding opportunities from other University of Arkansas offices (such as the Travel Grant program offered by the GSIE);

WHEREAS, the three GPSC funding programs have enjoyed nearly four consistent years of 34 profound success, supporting dozens of graduate students (and, by extension, their laboratories, advisors, departments, and colleges) to complete original research pursuant to their degrees;

WHEREAS, each of the three GPSC funding programs were carefully structured to maintain equality of access for all graduate and professional students, regardless of program, college, or citizenship-status;

WHEREAS, recent administrative changes at the University of Arkansas have threatened the successful administration of the three GPSC funding programs;

WHEREAS, these recent and sudden changes strongly threaten to disadvantage and harm graduate and professional students (and, by extension, their laboratories, advisors, departments, and colleges), in ways including, but not limited to:
1. prohibiting international students from accessing GPSC research funding (and, potentially, non-GPSC research funding elsewhere on campus),
2. increasing financial liabilities for funding applicants in multiple ways,
3. reducing access to applicants who lack further funding allowances,
4. betraying good-faith agreements made with past funding recipients by retroactively revoking authorization for already-spent monies;

WHEREAS, to date, no clear and consistent explanation for these recent administrative changes has been provided to the GPSC by university administration;

WHEREAS, to date, the three GPSC funding programs have not been shown to be in violation of any university, state, or federal policy or law;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the three GPSC funding programs here discussed (Travel, Research, and PIGS grants/awards) should be allowed to continue freely operating as they have done so for years to successfully support graduate and professional students specifically and the University of Arkansas community generally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that university administration should not reclassify any of the three GPSC funding programs here discussed as “financial aid” opportunities for graduate and professional students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that university administration should be explicit and specific regarding any further concerns that remain about the three GPSC funding programs (or any other GPSC business) and, where appropriate, name and explain the potentially conflicting law and/or policy relevant to the concern.

Be it therefore resolved:

That the ASG Senate supports that the three funding programs (Travel, Research, and PIGS grants/awards) continue to operate freely and not be reclassified as “financial aid” opportunities.

Be it finally resolved:

The Associated Student Government Senate bands with GPSC to support the continuation of the three funding programs already in place.

Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye 40 Nay 0 Abstentions 0
Legislation Status: Passed √ Failed ___ Other ___

Jack Switzer, ASG Chair of the Senate

Coleman Warren, ASG President

04/25/2022 Date

4/25/2022 Date