

# RESOLUTION

## Council of Graduate Students – University of Minnesota

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**Date:** September 8, 2005

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**Topic:** Opposing a Mandatory Stadium Fee for Graduate Students\*

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*Whereas* the University of Minnesota administration is pursuing the construction of an on-campus stadium and is now in the position of having to raise funds to cover this cost;

*Whereas* the University administration built a mandatory student contribution totaling \$50 million into the initial stadium financing budget despite the early call from COGS to “vehemently oppose plans that rely upon any student fees contribution” for the stadium (2/2004) and GAPSA’s stated position against the use of student fees towards a stadium unless as a last resort (11/03);

*Whereas* the administration, reflecting only the MSA position regarding stadium financing, is recommending a \$50 per semester mandatory fee from all students to fund the stadium despite the opposition expressed in a previous COGS resolution.”

*Whereas* a COGS representative met with members of the administration at Stadium Advisory Committee meetings throughout the 2004-2005 academic year and found them consistently unwilling to negotiate regarding the proposed student stadium-financing fee;

*Whereas* the Executive Committee of the Graduate School chaired by outgoing Dean Bloomfield in Spring 2005 unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to a mandatory stadium-financing fee for graduate students;

*Whereas* an optional (“opt-out”) fee would allow students in the financial position and of the inclination to demonstrate their support for an on-campus stadium by donating toward its construction to do so, while not creating a tremendous financial hardship for those graduate students not in the financial position to pay;

*Whereas* graduate students will be more inclined to pay an optional (“opt-out”) fee given the benefits package that is available to student fee-payers, thus ensuring minimal revenue shortfall from the abandonment of a mandatory fee;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the representatives of the Council of Graduate Students reaffirm our opposition to the use of a student fee to finance an on-campus stadium, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if a student fee to finance the on-campus stadium is absolutely unavoidable, this fee should be an opt-out for graduate students.

*\*Update of COGS resolution “Opposing the Use of Student Fees for the Stadium”, February 5, 2004*