

RESOLUTION

Council of Graduate Students – University of Minnesota

Date: December 4th 2003

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Topic: Possible Funding Cuts or Elimination of the Graduate School

Preamble

It has come to the attention of the Council of Graduate Students that the University administration is considering cutting funding to the Graduate School as one possible source to compensate for University wide deficits. Bearing this possibility in mind, the General Assembly of the Council of Graduate Students submits the following:

Whereas the Graduate School, by virtue of its extensive pass through funding, supplies graduate students with awards and assistantships, and through block grants and grant-in-aid provides crucial flexibility to departments and programs for faculty research initiatives that lead to graduate student jobs and mentoring opportunities;

Whereas the majority of the budget for the Graduate School is passed on to graduate students, providing graduate students and graduate programs with the flexibility necessary to provide quality post-graduate education which supports both retention and recruitment of excellent graduate students;

Whereas the Graduate School provides a much needed third party, non-partisan source of intervention for departmental disputes, as well as aiding in solving systemic problems reported in many different graduate programs;

Whereas the Graduate School provides university-wide competitions and recognition programs that cannot be made available through departments or colleges, and that greatly benefit all graduate students by virtue of their availability and prestige as centralized, university-wide awards;

Whereas graduate students are integral to the quality of education at the University of Minnesota – including undergraduates, faculty, and the larger University community – and the Graduate School gives support to graduate students, thereby benefiting the University of Minnesota as a whole;

Whereas the Graduate School provides for international students necessary recourses in translation, communication, and advocacy that could not successfully exist if diffused through departments or colleges, creating an additional hardship for international students;

Whereas the Graduate School provides resources and opportunities the support and encourage diversity and community among the graduate student body;

Whereas the Graduate School completes an innumerable amount of tasks in good faith for graduate students and graduate programs throughout the Twin Cities campuses, and the dissolution (to any degree) of the Graduate School and outsourcing of these duties to colleges or departments will create more of a burden to overloaded faculty, staff and Directors of Graduate Studies while increasing costs to the University of Minnesota and decreasing efficiency of said duties;

Whereas it is in large part the healthy working relationship with the Graduate School that allows COGS to successfully advocate for the needs, concerns and aspirations of graduate students in all matters relating to academics, quality of life, and the mission of the University of Minnesota;

Be it resolved that:

We, the General Assembly of the Council of Graduate Students of the University of Minnesota, urge the President and Provost to recognize the importance of the Graduate School and the services it provides as a key element in fulfilling the University of Minnesota's pledge to its graduate students;

Be it further resolved that:

The reduction of assistantships, fellowships, awards, and other financial resources made possible by the Graduate School, or the restriction of access to those resources, threatens the quality of life and education received by graduate students, and thereby undergraduate students, faculty, staff, and the entire university community of the University of Minnesota.