

RESOLUTION

Council of Graduate Students – University of Minnesota

Date: April 1st, 2004

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Topic: University Budget Priorities

Whereas in the University of Minnesota's budget priorities, education, classrooms, and salaries for essential University employees—including teaching and research assistants—are suffering in the face of rising administrative salaries and expenditure on non-essential capital improvements and aesthetic projects;

Whereas graduate students who came to the University of Minnesota under the agreement of full funding are now being required to pay increasingly larger portions of their health care benefits;

Whereas the athletic program is no longer self-sustaining and is actually running at a deficit;

Whereas the University is actively pursuing a football stadium while student tuition, fees and healthcare costs continue to rise;

Whereas these rising costs make it increasingly difficult for students to receive a quality education which the University of Minnesota, as a land grant institution, promises to make available to all students;

Whereas the University administration has not taken a visible, active and vocal stance against tuition hikes;

Whereas the trend at the University seems to be the reliance upon the contributions of students as the fail-safe to solve any financial shortfalls;

Therefore, be it resolved on this date of April 1, 2004 that the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) of the University of Minnesota expresses its belief that: education and research are the highest priorities of this teaching institution, and that the University would not exist without its students, and that students should be given the highest priority in any University budget considerations.