

1 **Associated Student Government**
2 *University of Arkansas*



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4 *ASG Senate Resolution No. 14*
5 Author(s): Senator Bennett Perkins, Senator Gabi Gies, GPSC President Pro
6 Tempore A.G. Holdier
7 Sponsor(s): Senator Colen Morrow, Senator Faith Gentry, Senator Garrett
8 Meadows
9

10 **A Resolution To Support GPSC Resolution 04-08**

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12 Whereas, the attached legislation was passed with a vote of 45-0-2 of
13 Pass-Fail-Abstain by GPSC in January, and
14

15 Whereas, Arkansas is considered a premiere research institution, being
16 in the top 3 percent nationally according to The Carnegie
17 Foundation, and
18

19 Whereas, graduate student experience is closely linked to
20 undergraduate experience, as many undergraduate students
21 will choose to attend graduate school here. Additionally,
22 graduate students often serve as lecturers, teaching
23 assistants, and other campus positions that factor into the
24 undergraduate student experience. As such, the defense of
25 graduate research programs also affects undergraduate
26 students.
27

28 **A RESOLUTION TO DEFEND UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS RESEARCH**

29
30 Author: A.G. Holdier
31

32 **WHEREAS**, academic research is a fundamental professional responsibility of every one
33 of the 1 more than 4500 graduate and professional students currently enrolled at the
34 University of Arkansas;
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36 **WHEREAS**, academic research includes a wide variety of activities including, but not
37 limited to, performing experiments, administering surveys, studying materials in
38 libraries and archives, and discussing each step of the research process with peers;
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40 **WHEREAS**, academic research requires significant financial support; 9
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42 **WHEREAS**, the University of Arkansas materially benefits from successful graduate
43 student research in many ways including, but not limited to:

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- 45 1. institutional ownership of intellectual property, such as designs and patents
- 46 produced by university-sponsored research,
- 47 2. increased prestige and university name-recognition, leading to increased
- 48 enrollment (particularly increased graduate student enrollment),
- 49 3. augmented support for university professors, many of whom depend on
- 50 graduate student labor;

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52 **WHEREAS**, the GPSC has successfully administered three distinct funding programs since
53 2018 to materially support graduate student research:

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- 55 1. the Travel Grant to provide up to \$500 for an applicant presenting original
- 56 research at a professional conference,
- 57 2. the Research Grant ("GPSC Tiffany Marcantonio Research Grant") to provide
- 58 up to \$1500 for an applicant performing original research,
- 59 3. the Professional and Internship Grant Sponsorship ("PIGS") Award to provide
- 60 up to \$500 for an applicant seeking professional development necessary for their
- 61 studies;

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

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

71

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

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

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79 **WHEREAS**, these recent and sudden changes strongly threaten to disadvantage and
80 harm graduate and professional students (and, by extension, their laboratories,
81 advisors, departments, and colleges), in ways including, but not limited to:

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- 83 1. prohibiting international students from accessing GPSC research funding
84 (and, potentially, non-GPSC research funding elsewhere on campus),
85 2. increasing financial liabilities for funding applicants in multiple ways,
86 3. reducing access to applicants who lack further funding allowances,
87 4. betraying good-faith agreements made with past funding recipients by
88 retroactively revoking authorization for already-spent monies;

89
90 **WHEREAS**, to date, no clear and consistent explanation for these recent administrative
91 changes has been provided to the GPSC by university administration;

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

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

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

104
105 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that university administration should be explicit and specific
106 regarding any further concerns that remain about the three GPSC funding programs (or
107 any other GPSC business) and, where appropriate, name and explain the potentially
108 conflicting law and/or policy relevant to the concern.

109
110 Be it therefore resolved: That the ASG Senate supports that the three
111 funding programs (Travel, Research, and PIGS
112 grants/awards) continue to operate freely and
113 not be reclassified as "financial aid"
114 opportunities.

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116 Be it finally resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate
117 bands with GPSC to support the continuation
118 of the three funding programs already in place.

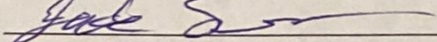
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120 Amendments: _____

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122 Vote Count: Aye 40 Nay 0 Abstentions 0

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124 Legislation Status: Passed Failed _____ Other _____

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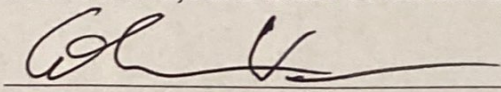
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04/25/2022

127 Jack Switzer, ASG Chair of the Senate

Date

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4/25/2022

130 Coleman Warren, ASG President

Date