

Texas A&M University
Graduate and Professional Student Council
General Assembly
2017-2018 Session

Resolution in Support of Increased Funding to Travel Awards

Presented by Pritishma Lakhe and Matthew J. Etchells on May 1, 2018

- Whereas: The Graduate and Professional Student Council exists to govern and to serve as the voice of all graduate and professional students at Texas A&M University.
- Whereas: The need for funding for graduate and professional students to travel to conferences to present their research supported by the Vice President for Research (VPR) office has surpassed the current funding amount provided. Presenting and attending professional conferences are a vital part of being a graduate and professional student. These experiences enhance graduate students' professional development as a High Impact Practice.
- Whereas: Currently, GPSC receives \$10,000 a year from VPR's office to fund the Graduate and Professional Student Council's travel awards. The fund is awarded to graduate and professional student throughout the year in four terms (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer). Five years ago, in 2013-2014, there were a total of 138 applicants but this number has increased to 485 applicants by 2017-2018, which is an increase of 250%. However, the total amount awarded has not increased in these five years. On average, in academic year 2017-2018, 5% of the eligible applicants who applied for GPSC travel awards were awarded the travel grant.
- And
Whereas: The respondents to the Graduate and Professional Student Council's Quality of Life survey 2017-2018 indicated a lack of funding, either by their department, or their personal financial limitation as a reason for not attending professional conferences. In line with the 2nd imperative in vision 2020 (i.e., Strength Texas A&M Graduate Program), the GPSC advocates to increase funding sources for graduate and professional student to attend professional conferences and enhance their professional development.
- Let it be
Resolved: The Graduate and Professional Student Council at Texas A&M University requests the Vice President of Research to increase funding to Graduate and Professional Student Council's current travel awards to meet the needs of students

at an award percentage that is more consistent with our increased number of applications.

Let it be
Further
Resolved:

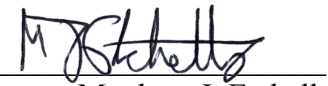
A copy of this resolution shall be posted and delivered to:

Matthew Etchells
President of the Graduate and Professional Student Council
Jamie Wangler
Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council
Stefanie Baker
Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council
Dr. Anne Reber
Dean of Student Life
Dr. Daniel Pugh
Vice President of Student Life
Dr. Mark Zoran
Acting Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies
Dr. Mark Barteau
Vice President for Research
Dr. Karen Butler-Purry
Special Advisor to the Vice President for Research
Dr. Jerry Strawser
Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Michael Young
President of Texas A&M University
Members of the GPSLCG
Graduate and Professional Student Leadership Communication Group

Action Taken: Passed

Certified By: 
C. Zane Sheehan
Executive Vice President

Date: 5/8/2018

Duly Approved By: 
Matthew J. Etchells
President