

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

**Resolution to support the Matthew Gaines Statue Commemoration**

*Presented by*

*Matthew J. Etchells, Wilmarie Marrero-Ortiz, Jeffrey Opaley  
on November 7, 2017*

- 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 history of Aggieland is filled with contributions from people of color that have not been recognized for their service within our community.
- Whereas: In April of 1871 while serving as a senator representing the 16th district in the 12th Texas Legislature, Matthew Gaines, voted for Senate Bill No. 276 that allowed Texas to take advantage of the 1862 Land Grant College Act.
- Whereas: The 1871 bill to establish the A. and M. College of Texas obligated the creation, if state officials chose to segregate White from Black students, of another federally supported land-grant school for African Americans, which subsequently became Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College.
- Whereas: The leadership role during Reconstruction played by Matthew Gaines in establishing Texas' first state supported public school system and first venture into higher education for all Texans is a matter of public record.
- Whereas: Matthew Gaines is recognized by the Texas House of Representatives as a courageous advocate for genuine democracy, a man of exceptional public service, and one of the foremost African American leaders in Texas History.
- Whereas: There are several statues and memorials on Texas A&M University's campus honoring important contributions to the University and the Aggie Spirit.

Whereas: Texas A&M University has shown through initiatives such as “Vision 2020” and their response to incidences of racial intolerance and violence a commitment to “attract and nurture a more ethnically, culturally, and geographically diverse faculty, staff, and student body” (Imperative 6 of Vision 2020)

Whereas: A statue honoring Matthew Gaines, a former African American state senator, for his role in the creation of Texas A&M University could further this goal, and demonstrate Texas A&M’s pride in our unique origins and diverse past.

And  
Whereas: There is an area for a statue of Matthew Gaines to be placed on the South Side of the new Student Services Building.

Let it be  
Resolved: That the Graduate and Professional Student Council encourages all Aggies to look back with pride to our creation, when courageous and far-sighted Texas legislators, both Black and White, came together to establish the “Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas”.

Let it be  
Resolved: That the Graduate and Professional Student Council strongly supports the establishment of a Matthew Gaines statue celebrating a person who fought for the creation of what is now Texas A&M University.


Let it be  
Further  
Resolved: A copy of this resolution shall be posted and delivered to:  
 Mr. Michael K. Young  
*President of Texas A&M University*  
 Dr. Carol A. Fierke  
*Executive Vice President and Provost*  
 Dr. Daniel J. Pugh, Sr.  
*Vice President for Student Affairs*  
 Dr. Mark Zoran  
*Acting Associate Provost for Graduate & Professional Studies*  
 Dr. Blanca Lupiani  
*Interim Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity*  
 Bobby Brooks  
*Student Body President*  
 Jasmine Wang  
*Speaker of Student Senate*  
 Joshua McCormick  
*Editor-in-Chief of The Battalion*  
 Matthew J. 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*

**Action Taken:** Passed

**Certified By:**   
Christian Nygren  
*Executive Vice President*

**Date:** 11/17/17

**Duly Approved By:**   
Matthew J. Etchells  
*President*