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 Opaleyeye
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 obliged 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

 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: 
[Signature]
Christian Nygren
Executive Vice President

Date: 11/17/17

Duly Approved By: 
[Signature]
Matthew J. Etchells
President