

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

**Resolution in Support of Increased Funding to the Becky Gates
Children's Center**

Presented by Keya Mukherjee and Matthew J. Etchells on April 17, 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: There exists expensive and inadequate childcare options available to graduate and professional students off campus at Texas A&M University and the only childcare facility on campus is the Becky Gates Children's Center.
- Whereas: Currently, the center takes in 165 children per year between the ages of 12 months to 5 years. Of the total intake 37% are children of students on campus, 41% faculty, and 22% staff. Out of the 37%, graduate students make up 32% and they are not considered a priority.
- Whereas: The cost of having a child at the center is \$800.00 per month. Students at Texas A&M University can get a \$100 discount, but a limit of 71 students at a time means childcare is expensive for most graduate students who have to seek external childcare providers.
- Whereas: As of March, 2018 there are 220 children on the waitlist with a typical waiting time to be enrolled of 1 to 1.5 years. This makes the childcare facilities available on campus inadequate to meet the needs of the graduate and professional student populations.
- And
Whereas: During the March 21st Graduate and Professional Student Leader Communications Group (GPSLCG) meeting with Erica Ritter, director of the Becky Gates Children's Center, she expressed her interest in expanding the number of children taken in every year. However, a lack of funding from the University to the center makes it difficult to do so. The budget needed to run the center comes from our tuition fees. Out of that, 80% of their budget is allocated towards paying staff.

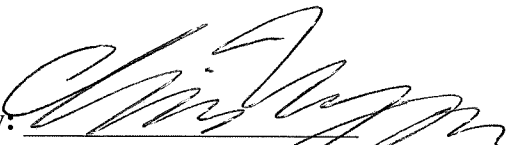
Let it be Resolved: The Graduate and Professional Student Council at Texas A&M University requests Texas A&M University to increase funding to the Becky Gates Children's Center for the purpose of reducing the amount paid by graduate students for childcare and to expand the square footage of the current Becky Gates Children's Center.

Let it be Further Resolved: A copy of this resolution shall be posted and delivered to:

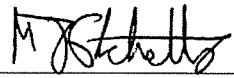
Matthew Etchells
President of the Graduate and Professional Student Council
Jamie Wangler
Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council
Stefanie Baker
Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council
Dr. Anne Reber
Dean of Student Life
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Vice President of Student Life
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Board of Regents
Bill Mahomes
Board of Regents
Cliff Thomas
Board of Regents
Stephen F. Shuchart
Board of Regents
Erica Ritter
Becky Gates Children's Center

Action Taken: Passed

Certified By: 
Christian Nygren
Executive Vice President

Date: 5/3/18

Duly Approved By: 
Matthew J. Etchells
President