

Title: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GPSS FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS AND THIS YEAR'S SAGE DAY ON THE HILL.

Sponsored by: Sarah Reyneveld (GPSS President), Ben Henry (GPSS Vice President), Shawn Mincer (GPSS Secretary), Marc Jaffrey (GPSS Treasurer), Matt Souza (Business), Adam Sherman (SAGE Delegate), Aaron Naumann (Executive Senator), Charles Plummer (Executive Senator), and Paul Myoung (Executive Senator).

Resolution Number: 04.10-11

WHEREAS in the Fall of 2008, the University of Texas at Austin sponsored the 2008 Graduate Governance and Advocacy Summit, which brought together the graduate governments of the nation's preeminent public universities, including the University of Washington (UW), and created Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) in order to promote quality of life, quality of education, access, and affordability of education for graduate students at public institutions¹; and

WHEREAS SAGE represents over 120,000 graduate and professional students nationwide, including over 12,000 at UW; and

WHEREAS since 2008, the UW Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) President, Vice President and delegates have taken leadership in SAGE by hosting and attending annual planning summits, building the organizational strength of SAGE, and advocating on behalf of graduate and professional students in Washington, D.C. each spring; and

WHEREAS federal funding is critical to maintaining the quality of UW's graduate and professional programs; and

WHEREAS the Obama administration proposes to cut \$100 billion from higher education over 10 years including reducing loan subsidies for graduate and professional students by \$2 billion next year and by \$29 billion over 10 years²; and

WHEREAS the "Pledge to America" budget proposal by House Republicans would cut funding to research programs by as much as 20% for fiscal year 2011; and

WHEREAS federal student advocacy in support of graduate and professional programs is essential for the UW to maintain its status as the top public federal research funding recipient in the country.³

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

¹ Student Advocates for Graduate Education. www.sagecoalition.org

² Office of Management and Budget, "Fiscal Year 2012 Budget of the U.S. Government."

³ University of Washington (2008) (PDF), *Annual Report Of Awards And Expenditures Related To Research, Training, Fellowships, and Other Sponsored Programs*, University of Washington

THAT GPSS supports its continued leadership role within SAGE; and

THAT GPSS supports reducing graduate and professional student indebtedness through legislation to expand the income-based repayment and income⁴; and

THAT GPSS supports allowing for the forgiveness of some student loans for graduate students who pursue careers in government, the nonprofit sector or other areas of public service⁵; and

THAT GPSS supports restoring tax exempt status of graduate scholarships and fellowships⁶; and

THAT GPSS supports increasing the number of H1-B visas and removing unnecessary and burdensome restrictions associated with F-1 visas⁷; and

THAT GPSS supports international graduate and professional students through legislation that removes some restrictions on the number of H1B visas granted and that creates a path for immigrants to gain citizenship by earning a higher education degree; and

THAT GPSS supports maintaining funding for graduate student education and the more than \$1.2 billion in federally funded research grants UW receives, particularly but not limited to those provided by the NSF, NEA, NASA, NIH, CDC, Department of Defense, Department of Energy and NEH; and

THAT GPSS supports funding for graduate and professional student financial aid in light of the Obama Administration's proposed decrease in loan subsidies; and

THAT GPSS supports SAGE's efforts to fight against the elimination of graduate student in-school loan subsidies and cuts to other forms of graduate financial aid; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to UW Interim President Phyllis Wise, UW Interim Provost Mary Lindstrom, the UW Board of Regents, UW Federal Relations Director Christy Gullion, and Washington State's congressional delegation.

Presented to GPSS for approval on March 2, 2011

Approved on March 2, 2011

⁴ www.sagecoalition.org/sites/default/files/SAGE2010Indebtedness.pdf.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ www.sagecoalition.org/sites/default/files/SAGE2010Tax.pdf.

⁷ www.sagecoalition.org/sites/default/files/SAGE2010Immigration.pdf.