Title: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE TO ESTABLISH AN AUTUMN 2012 AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GPSS TRAVEL GRANTS

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WHEREAS the mission of the University of Washington Graduate and Professional Student Senate is to “in every way possible, attempt to improve all aspects of graduate and professional student life at the University of Washington” (GPSS Constitution, Art. II Sec. A); and

WHEREAS participation in professional and academic conferences is a fundamental component of graduate school education and professional development for many graduate and professional students; and

WHEREAS the GPSS has for over five years administered a popular travel grant program; and

WHEREAS funding for conference travel has become increasingly difficult to obtain for many students during the ongoing University-wide budget reduction and fiscal restructuring process; and

WHEREAS the assembled Senate elected to terminate travel grants from the 2012–2013 budget and committee structure at its meeting on 4 April 2012; and

WHEREAS a group of Senators has expressed an interest in investigating potential opportunities to improve and/or reinstate the administration of GPSS travel grants in the future,

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

THAT an Ad Hoc Committee on GPSS Travel Grants be established at the first meeting of the 2012–2013 academic year to reconsider the place of travel grants within the GPSS mission; and
THAT the Ad Hoc Committee be charged with the task of, during the autumn 2012 term, investigating potential means for reforming the current and/or most recently used standards for GPSS travel grant applications, award and distribution processes and be required to actively investigate alternative sources of funding for such grants, including those available from the University, alumni and others; and

THAT the Ad Hoc Committee be charged with the task of collecting data, to eventually be made public, on grant funds dedicated to conference-related travel currently available across the University; and

THAT the Ad Hoc Committee be required to make an official report to the Senate by the conclusion of the autumn 2012 term on its findings and conclusions; and

THAT the official report is to include a formal recommendation on the future of GPSS-administered travel grants for the consideration of the body.

*Presented to GPSS for approval on May 30, 2012*

*Approved on*