Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TO DEVELOP ON-SITE UNIVERSITY CHILDCARE CENTERS AND SUPPORT CHILDCARE ACCESS

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Resolution Number: 02. 14-15

WHEREAS childcare access on the UW campus has been a historically recurring issue, dating back to at least the 1970s including multiple studies (Counting Noses: University of Washington Child Care Needs Assessment, 1996; University of Washington Feasibility Study for On-Site Child Care, 1998; No Parent Left Behind: A Study Assessing the Needs of Students with Children at the University of Washington’s Seattle Campus, 2012) on childcare needs at the University of Washington on which the University has failed to act on findings and recommendations; and

WHEREAS childcare facilities affiliated with campus (both on- and off-site) are at capacity with lengthy wait lists; and

WHEREAS childcare is essential for student-parents’ access to education, with 72% of surveyed student parents expecting parenthood will delay their graduation. Sick-child care is crucial to ensure access to education, as 87% of childcare users staying home from work or school to care for their sick child¹; and

WHEREAS on average, only four of 1000 UW families have access to University Childcare, with capacity of 193 children (Radford Court – 79, Laurel Village – 60, West Campus – 54); and

WHEREAS childcare is a diversity issue, and lack of access (more so than affordability) excludes student parents from being able to participate or attend school; and

WHEREAS current options provided by the University of Washington are inadequate to meet the needs of student parents; and

WHEREAS currently planned construction on North Campus offers potential for inclusion of a childcare facility; and

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

THAT the GPSS urges the University of Washington to develop on-site university childcare centers at every new building opportunity; and

¹ No Parent Left Behind, Ben Henry, June 2012.
² Benchmark Comparisons of University Childcare, presented by Ann Mescher
THAT the GPSS encourages the University of Washington to continue to examine facilities to create flexible options whenever possible and to adjust and respond to the changing needs of campus families, including drop-in, evening, part-time availability, sick child care, etc.; and

THAT the GPSS supports ongoing efforts at the University of Washington to develop collaborations between new campus childcare centers, affording access for families and ensuring excellence and quality programs for those served; and

THAT copies of this resolution be sent to UW Interim President Ana Mari Cauce, Interim Provost Gerald Baldasty, the Director of Childcare Access Amy Hawkins, and Chair of the Board of Regents Orin Smith.

Presented to GPSS for approval on February 25, 2015
Approved on February 25, 2015