

Texas A&M University  
Graduate and Professional Student Council  
General Assembly  
2016-2017 Session

**A Resolution Recognizing the Graduate and Professional Student  
Council as the Primary Voice of the Graduate and Professional  
Student Body**

*Presented by Paul Taelle on February 21, 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 graduate and professional student body represents approximately one-quarter of the entire student body at Texas A&M University, and the delegates and representatives that serve on the Graduate and Professional Student Council's General Assembly are entirely comprised of masters, doctoral, and professional students and closely reflect Graduate and Professional Student Demographics.

Whereas: Student Senate of the Student Government Association at Texas A&M University are traditionally comprised of senators who are almost entirely domestic undergraduate students whose make up does not reflect the demographics of the graduate and professional student body and is unable to speak to the variety of experiences held by the graduate and professional student body.

Whereas: Student Senate have previously passed resolutions that speak on behalf of the student body but have subsequently been opposed by the Graduate and Professional Student Council on behalf of the graduate and professional student body, including issues such as campus carry<sup>1</sup>, graduate student wildcat<sup>2</sup>, GLBT funding cuts<sup>3</sup>, allocated graduate and professional student

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<sup>1</sup> F2012.4 opposing S.B. 65-17's support of campus carry

<sup>2</sup> S2014.2 opposing S.R. 66-05's support of a graduate student wildcat

<sup>3</sup> S2013.4 opposing S.B. 65-70's support of GLBT funding cut

seats in Student Senate<sup>4</sup>, and impeachment of the Student Body President<sup>5</sup>.

Whereas: The Graduate and Professional Student Council's claim to represent and serve graduate and professional students is undermined by the Student Senate's claim to represent all students and creates conflict when Student Senate passes resolutions that do not represent the views of the graduate and professional student body.

Whereas: Through consultation between student leaders within Texas A&M University Student Government Association and Graduate and Professional Student Council it has been agreed that official recognition of the Graduate and Professional Student Council as the primary legislative voice for graduate and professional students by the Student Senate would have numerous benefits.

These benefits include but are not limited to:

- Removal of competition over representation allowing for more collaboration on important issues
- Recognition of the importance and efficacy of the Student Government Association's Executive Branch
- Removal of ambiguity when the two legislative groups disagree
- Potential mentoring and sharing of best practices without worry of reducing representative role or group autonomy
- Emphasis of importance on issues that the two bodies agree on

Let it be Resolved: The Graduate and Professional Student Council requests that Student Senate formally acknowledge the Graduate and Professional Student Council as the primary legislative voice of graduate and professional students at Texas A&M University.

Let it be Resolved: The Graduate and Professional Student Council requests that Student Senate consult with and communicate to the Graduate and Professional Student Council on authoring resolutions intended to speak on behalf of the entire student body that would be of interest to graduate and professional students.

Let it be Resolved: The Graduate and Professional Student Council requests that Student Senate consider jointly authored resolutions for topics of importance in which graduate and professional students have a vested interest.

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<sup>4</sup> S2014.08 rejecting Student Senate's proposal for proportional allocation of seats for graduate and professional student in Student Senate

<sup>5</sup> S2014.8 opposing Student Senate's impeachment charges against 2013-2014 Student Body President Joseph Reid

Let it be Resolved: The Graduate and Professional Student Council requests that Texas A&M University recognize distinct yet complementary roles of the Student Senate and the Graduate and Professional Student Council. Accepting that resolutions from one group do not necessarily reflect the views of the other, and understanding the priority and importance of joint resolutions.

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

- Hannah Wimberly  
*Student Body President*
- Dan Rosenfield  
*Vice President of the Student Government Association*
- Joseph Hood  
*Speaker of Student Senate*
- Daniel J. Pugh, Sr.  
*Vice President for Student Affairs of Texas A&M University*
- Anne Reber  
*Dean of Student Life of Texas A&M University*
- John Sharp  
*Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System*
- Cliff Thomas  
*Chairman of The Board Of Regents of The Texas A&M University System*
- Karan L. Watson  
*Executive Vice President and Provost of Texas A&M University*
- Karen Butler-Purry  
*Associate Provost for Graduate & Professional Studies of Texas A&M University*
- Michael K. Young  
*President of Texas A&M University*
- Kelly Brown  
*Editor of The Eagle, Bryan*
- Sam King  
*Editor of The Battalion*
- Paul Taele  
*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*

Action Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified By: \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Nygren  
*Executive Vice President*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Duly Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Paul Tael**  
*President*