GSGA30-R02

A Resolution Calling for the Legalization of Collective Bargaining for Graduate Student Employees

Summary: A resolution that calls upon the Maryland General Assembly to legalize collective bargaining for graduate student employees.

WHEREAS, Maryland law currently denies collective bargaining rights to any student employees, including those who are teaching assistants, research assistants, lecturers, adjuncts, other comparable positions, hereafter referred to as "graduate employees"; and

WHEREAS, four of the five peer institutions used as benchmarks for University of Maryland, College Park (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and the University of Michigan) currently allow collective bargaining for graduate employees; and

WHEREAS, at these and other institutions, collective bargaining can function as an effective means to address cost of living and employment concerns; and

WHEREAS, graduate employees who are not assistants are currently being furloughed as regular employees; and

WHEREAS, graduate employees face ongoing uncertainty regarding their appointments; and

WHEREAS, compensation for graduate employees has not increased at a pace comparable to our peer institutions that employ collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS, University of Maryland graduate employees have not received any cost-of-living adjustments in recent years, yet graduate student housing costs, university fees, and graduate tuition have risen every year; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of collective bargaining rights, graduate employees are unable to formally negotiate with the university administration to address these and other issues; and

WHEREAS, the 2009-2010 University System of Maryland work group tasked with considering collective bargaining has not circulated a non-draft whitepaper, has not produced sufficient recommendations on the issue, and has not coordinated the promised meetings between administrators and graduate students; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Government believes that graduate employees should have the right to pursue collective bargaining and that the law should not deny such an option to them;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government calls upon the Maryland General Assembly to legalize collective bargaining for graduate employees.

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Sponsor(s): Aleia Clark, Program Representative (SOCY)
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Date and Time of Submission: 1 December 2010

Date of Presentation: 10 December 2010

Action(s) Taken:

Sponsors added (Brunner, Dillow, Richardson).

APPROVED

Decision of GSG President

A signed copy is on file in the GSG Offices	12/10/2010
Signature of GSG President	Date