

GSG41-R07

A Resolution Calling for Data Collection to Assess Housing Insecurity Among Graduate Students

Summary: The resolution calls upon the Graduate School and the Office of Student Affairs to conduct a quantitative study measuring housing insecurity among graduate students with particular reference to out-of-state and international graduate students.

WHEREAS, housing prices in areas surrounding the University of Maryland have increased over the past several years; and

WHEREAS, the average graduate student assistantship financial compensation is 32% of the average salary in the Prince George's County; and

WHEREAS, anecdotal evidence indicates that graduate students experience housing insecurity when facing unexpected problems with their long-term housing; and

WHEREAS, unexpected housing problems are thought of as, but not limited to, landlord defaults, abusive or polluted housing environment, gaps between long-term leases, mental conditions, harassment, life changes that deem current housing conditions insufficient (pregnancy, acquired disabilities); and

WHEREAS, housing insecurity is known to be caused by no or low income, which results in financial hardship or short-term homelessness of graduate students; and

WHEREAS, graduate students contribute to teaching and research efforts at the University of Maryland and the quality of those efforts is dependent on students' physical and mental health and safety, which is heavily intertwined with housing security; and,

WHEREAS, results of a survey conducted in 2017 and administered to 9800 graduate students provided data on housing problems of the graduate students body [1] and, the results did not report on student experiences with short-term housing insecurity as the questions were directed at overall experiences; and,

WHEREAS, quantitative data on the scope of the problem is needed for for future administrative and student initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, the quantitative data on the problem is not available.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government calls upon the Graduate School and the Office of Student Affairs to conduct a quantitative study on temporary housing insecurity among graduate students with particular focus on out-of-state

and international graduate students and report their findings to the Graduate Student Government and their constituencies.

References:

[1] Survey Results | The University of Maryland Graduate School. (2021). Page 10. Retrieved 30 September 2021, from <https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/choose-maryland/facts-and-figures/survey-results>

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Date of Presentation:

Action(s) Taken:

Decision of GSG President

Signature of GSG President

Date