**GSGA40-R03**

**A Resolution Calling for Support to Graduate Students Who Are Not Able to Finish Their Research This Year Because of the Restrictions Brought by COVID-19**

**Summary:** Many graduate students have been delayed in their research as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Graduate School should support these students, ensuring that each department unit has the financial resources to support them for an additional year.

**WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic has severely limited the research resources necessary for graduate students to progress in their investigation, including but not limited to library closures and travel bans; and

**WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic has also altered the professional, personal, and academic situation for all students, adding extra-workload and stress; and

**WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a significant decrease in the number of academic and non-academic job openings in 2020, compared to previous years; and

**WHEREAS,** this has resulted in the impossibility for many students to make the expected progress in their research; and

**WHEREAS,** many departments and/or units have not been able to ensure that these students will receive an extension in deadlines and funding; and

**WHEREAS,** more than 50 graduate programs in U.S. universities have enacted measures to devote funding to their current students, many of whom will be delayed in completing their degrees because of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** departments and/or units should financially support current graduate students in their last years by extending deadlines and Graduate Assistantships; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** departments and/or units should be transparent in how they will use their budget for the next year, and show their commitment to the financial support of these graduate students; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Graduate School should support departments and/or units by providing flexibility in the allocation of financial resources, to ensure that they are able to support their current graduate students whose research has been affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

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**Sponsor(s):**

**Date and Time of Submission:** October 28th, 2020

**Date of Presentation:** November 4th, 2020

**Action(s) Taken:**

APPROVED

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Decision of GSG President

November 18, 2020

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Signature of GSG President Date