GSGA41-R04
A Resolution Calling for ISSS & Graduate Departments to Work Together to Provide Funding For International Students’ Cost of Moving

Summary: The resolution calls upon the office of International Students & Scholar Services to work together with programs within the Graduate School to identify incoming international students who may need assistance with moving costs and finding housing so that graduate departments may be able to provide these students with additional funding.

WHEREAS, current and future University of Maryland graduate students often are not local to the Maryland or DMV area, particularly international students who must move long distances; and

WHEREAS, moving from another country can be difficult in a number of regards, including the financial demands of acquiring housing, as well as the potential stress while searching for sufficient and affordable housing in an unfamiliar area; and

WHEREAS, international students especially are susceptible to scams and predatory practices by landlords if those students search for housing without seeing the properties before moving in; and

WHEREAS, to avoid this uncertainty and risk, some international students acquire temporary housing, such as staying in a hotel or renting an AirBnb, to give themselves time to visit housing options once they arrive in the area; and

WHEREAS, these temporary housing options are usually expensive, and incoming international students may be particularly financially constrained, especially if they either do not have an assistantship, or are waiting for funding from their assistantship appointments to start (which may be a few weeks into the start of their graduate program); and

WHEREAS, Graduate Student Government representatives have explored ideas of how to improve the issues surrounding temporary housing with stakeholders throughout University offices, and one viable way, in addition to others, to address this issue, may be for departments to assist in the moving costs for students who need it; and

WHEREAS, some graduate departments may have extra money allotted to admissions and funding packages for the graduate students they accept and hire as assistants, and some departments negotiate with individual students on their funding packages; and

WHEREAS, any extra funding to offset the financial requirements and stress of moving would be helpful for these students; and
WHEREAS, Graduate Assistants’ work contributes to teaching and research efforts at the University of Maryland, where the quality of those efforts is dependent on students’ health and safety, which is affected by housing security; thus, a supportive action of the departments would serve to promote the academic excellence of their students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government calls upon the office of International Students & Scholar Services to identify incoming international students who would most benefit from additional funding to offset the costs of moving; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the office of International Students & Scholar Services should inform the relevant graduate departments of these students in need and encourage them to provide additional funding as available to offset the costs of moving.

Author(s): Gabrielle Wy CCJS

Sponsor(s): Autumn Perkey (VPLA), Jacek Garbulinski (ENAE), Xueyuan Gao(GEOG)

Date and Time of Submission:

Date of Presentation:

Action(s) Taken:

Decision of GSG President

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Signature of GSG President

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Date