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S18RS SGR No. 11 (Grad School Fees)

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STUDENT SENATE
S18RS
SGR No. 11
BY: SENATORS BAM

A RESOLUTION
TO URGE AND REQUEST ALL THE ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TO CLEARLY STATE EXPECTED FEES FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL IN THE GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP OFFER LETTER

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, Most of the graduate students are offered graduate assistantships (Teaching, Research and Service) at Louisiana State University (LSU); and

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, the graduate assistantship covers tuition and pays a stipend, however, the graduate students must pay fees and health insurance separately; and

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, all the graduate assistantship offer letter mention the stipend amount, full tuition being exempt, and the responsibilities to maintain the assistantship; and

PARAGRAPH 4: WHEREAS, the graduate assistantship offer letter also mentions graduate student to be responsible for fees, but it doesn’t provide the expected fees, thus not providing all sufficient information to prospective students; and

PARAGRAPH 5: WHEREAS, most of the faculty are not aware of the expected fees for the graduate students and, prospective students tend to ask current graduate students about the fees and graduate life at Louisiana State University; and

PARAGRAPH 6: WHEREAS, current wages after fees are, on average, significantly lower than an actual living wage in the parish\(^1\), and many current graduate students feel it is irresponsible to recommend pursuing graduate studies at LSU to prospective students given this imposed low quality of living; and

\(^1\) Data taken from MIT’s Living Wage Calculator, calculated for living expenses in East Baton Rouge Parish. See http://livingwage.mit.edu/parish/22033 for more details.
WHEREAS, IF FEES MENTIONED IN THE OFFER LETTER, WOULD BETTER ASSIST PROSPECTIVE STUDENT TO PLAN THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION AND MAKE DECISION TO ACCEPT THE OFFER, AND CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENT WOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE TO TALK TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS; AND

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE THAT ALL THE ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY CLEARLY STATE EXPECTED FEES FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL IN THE GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP OFFER LETTER, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO ALL THE ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS AND GRADUATE SCHOOL AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (ONE-HALF PLUS ONE) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

APPROVED:

__________________________  _________________________
JAMES J. MICKLER            JASON J. BADEAUX
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE       STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE:____________________  DATE:____________________

\* Data taken from MIT’s Living Wage Calculator, calculated for living expenses in East Baton Rouge Parish. See http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/ 22033 for more details.