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S18RS SGR No. 13 (Grad School Fees)

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STUDENT SENATE

ENROLLED

S18RS

SGR No. 13

BY SENATORS KAVOUSI, J. LANDRY, & BAM

A RESOLUTION

**TO URGE AND REQUEST EXEMPTION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM THE
STUDENT EXCELLENCE FEE AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FEE**

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS “THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY AND STAFF AT LSU STRONGLY SUPPORT A LIVING WAGE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS”¹; AND

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, THE MINIMUM ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT WAGE FOR A 20-HOUR, ACADEMIC-YEAR GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY IS \$10,800², WHICH IS FAR BELOW THE AVERAGE \$19,183 OFFERED BY UNIVERSITIES AROUND THE UNITED STATES,³ MUCH LESS THE \$22,652 CALCULATED AS THE ANNUAL LIVING WAGE FOR A SINGLE ADULT WITHOUT CHILDREN IN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH⁴; AND

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT FEES (FALL/SPRING) INCREASED FROM \$2,179.15 IN 2015-16 TO \$3,225.15 IN 2017-18; AND

PARAGRAPH 4: WHEREAS, THE STUDENT EXCELLENCE FEE WAS NOT CHARGED BEFORE FALL 2016 BUT NOW MORE THAN DOUBLES THE AMOUNT ALREADY PAID BY GRADUATE STUDENTS THROUGH THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FEE; AND

PARAGRAPH 5: WHEREAS, PARTS OF THE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FEES ARE USED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTORS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS TO OPEN MORE CLASS SECTIONS, ESSENTIALLY FORCING GRADUATE STUDENTS TO PAY FOR THEIR OWN SALARIES; AND

PARAGRAPH 6: WHEREAS, COMPARING LSU WITH ITS PEER UNIVERSITIES SHOWS THAT FEW HAVE HIGHER FEES THAN LSU, AND FOR MOST OF THOSE UNIVERSITIES, THE AVERAGE/MINIMUM STIPENDS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS WERE MUCH MORE THAN LSU’S; AND

¹ <http://www.lsu.edu/senate/resolution%2016-11%20improving%20graduate%20student%20stipends.pdf>

² <http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/policiesprocedures/policies-procedures/21/>

³ https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Graduate_Assistant/Salary

⁴ Data from MIT’s Living Wage Calculator, calculated for living expenses in East Baton Rouge Parish: <http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/22033>

PARAGRAPH 7: WHEREAS, FINANCIAL BURDENS CAUSED BY A COMBINATION OF LOW STIPENDS AND HIGH FEES MAY DECREASE GRADUATE STUDENT PERFORMANCE, IF NOT FORCE STUDENTS TO TRANSFER OR LEAVE GRADUATE STUDIES ENTIRELY; AND

PARAGRAPH 8: WHEREAS FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 11-16 EMPHASIZES THE CONCERNS FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE RELATING TO GRADUATE STUDENTS' LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS; AND

PARAGRAPH 9: WHEREAS, EXEMPTING GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM THE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FEES WOULD IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR A GROUP THAT IS CRUCIAL TO LSU'S CONTINUED SUCCESS AS A FLAGSHIP RESEARCH UNIVERSITY; AND

PARAGRAPH 10: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE THAT THIS BODY URGES AND REQUESTS ACTION EXEMPTING GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM THE STUDENT EXCELLENCE FEE AND THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FEE, AND

PARAGRAPH 11: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO THE LSU BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, PRESIDENT F. KING ALEXANDER, RICHARD J. KOUBEK, PROVOST, AND MICHELLE A. MASSÉ, INTERIM VICE PROVOST FOR GRADUATE STUDIES AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT,, AND

PARAGRAPH 12: 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
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: _____

JASON J. BADEAUX
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE: _____