

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

Resolution: G R. 14 (S) 5

**Sponsor: Jennifer Clegg and Frank Male
Author: Sharla Chamberlain**

Action Taken: Passed

Certified:



President, Graduate Student Assembly
President, Graduate Student Assembly

In Support of the 2015 Invest in Texas Platform

Summary: A resolution adopting the Invest in Texas legislative platform

- Whereas (1):** Invest in Texas is a non-partisan campaign that advocates for the students of The University of Texas at Austin at the Texas Legislature through the coordinated efforts of the university's three Legislative Student Organizations (LSO's), which include the Student Government, the Senate of College Councils, and the Graduate Student Assembly; and,
- Whereas (2):** The Invest in Texas platform for the 2015 Texas Legislature is divided into five main areas of focus including; 1) in support of capital investment funding for the renovation of Welch Hall, 2) in support of the continuation of in-state tuition for undocumented students of Texas residency, 3) in support of the continuation of the Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund or similar funding and matching of grants that focus on maintaining and enhancing support of tier-1 institutions, 4) in support of a provision that allows for institutions to decide their own policies and guidelines on campus carry, 5) in opposition of the regulation of tuition and in support of allowing to determine its own tuitions and fees; and,
- Whereas (3):** That the Invest in Texas Constitution states in Article I, Section B that the purpose of Invest in Texas is "to represent students at the Texas Legislature as well as to get students involved in the Texas legislative process"; and,
- Whereas (4):** We as the Graduate Student Assembly of the University of Texas at Austin, serve as the official voice of graduate students and exist to represent graduate student interests to the University of Texas at Austin Administration, among other audiences; and,
- Whereas (5):** According to the Invest in Texas Memorandum of Understanding, all three LSO's must be an active part of the Invest in Texas campaign; and,

Therefore,

Let it Be Resolved (1): That the Graduate Student Assembly at the University of Texas at Austin, applauds the university's reputation of being "a university of the first class" and strives to maintain it by advocating at the legislature on issues of importance to higher education in order for the students' interests to be represented; and therefore,

Be it Further Resolved (2): That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of College Councils Geetika Jerath and the President of Student Government Kori Rady; and therefore,

Be it Further Resolved (3): That a copy of this resolution be sent to the official advisers of the Graduate Student Assembly including Dr. Judith H. Langlois, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies and Dr. Gage E. Paine, Vice President for Student Affairs including Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Dean of Students at The University of Texas at Austin.

Whereas (7): The GSA is aware of similar reviewing of embargo policies, including a two year initial embargo option, in other top-tier institutions like Princeton University, University of Chicago, University of California and University of Wisconsin; and,

Whereas (8): The GSA is aware of greater flexibility in embargo options, including an option of extended multi-year dissertation embargo, in distribution through Proquest's UMI publishing program; and,

Whereas (10): The GSA appreciates the commitment of the Graduate School and the University in promoting the interests of graduating students in their chosen profession beyond their initial placement; and,

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved (1): The GSA advocates for greater flexibility in the dissertation embargo policy at the University of Texas at Austin that accounts for the different needs and time-scales necessary for professional advancement and protection of intellectual property in different fields; and,

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved (2): The GSA encourages that the discussion on increasing flexibility in embargo on dissertation and thesis in the Graduate School to explore directions including but not limited to ideas such as providing an option for a multi- year initial period of embargo, increased ease of extension of the embargo through online application, etc. ; and,

Be it

Further

Resolved (3): The GSA encourages a periodic revision of the embargo policy in the Graduate School given the changing nature of information access and increasing demand for online viewing and dissemination of scholarly work; and,

Be it

Further

Resolved (4): That official copies of this resolution be delivered to Dr. Judith H. Langlois, the Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Terry Kahn, Associate Dean of Graduate Student Services; Marvin Hackert, Associate Dean of Graduate Student Services; Michael White, Chair of the Graduate Assembly; Jay Hartzell, Chair of the Graduate Assembly Academic Committee; Mr. Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President; Mr. Gregory Fenves, Executive Vice President and Provost; Dr. Hillary Hart, Chair of the Faculty Council; and the Deans of All Colleges.