

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

Authors: Jeffrey Gan, *Representative from Theatre and Dance*, Graduate Student Assembly
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Resolution: G.R. 17 (S) 8 - In Opposition to Federal Censorship and Cuts to Arts and Science Funding

WHEREAS (1): The proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2017 defunds the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Corporation for Public Broadcasting which together constitute 0.02% of the federal budget¹ and substantially reduces the funding of the Environmental Protection Agency by 40%² and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration by 17%³; cuts which specifically target programs collecting and synthesizing climate data and,

WHEREAS (2): The current administration has issued gag orders against scientists employed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture to prevent direct communication with the public on issues of public policy⁴ and,

WHEREAS (3): The University of Texas at Austin receives substantial federal monies supporting research in both the arts and the sciences, with at least 160 NEA and NEH grants awarded to UT projects since 1988; and,

WHEREAS (4): Access to publicly funded art and science data is a right (unsure about this point?); and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED (1): These proposed cuts and pressures constitute censorship against freedom of inquiry and expression by UT students and faculty and an attack on the careers and livelihoods of graduate students and faculty at the University of Texas and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (2): We as a body must stand united across disciplinary boundaries against attacks on scientists, artists, and all researchers; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (3): We call upon President Fenves; Linda Hicke, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences; Randy L. Diehl, Dean of the

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/01/19/trump-reportedly-wants-to-cut-cultural-programs-that-make-up-0-02-percent-of-federal-spending/>

² <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/27/politics/trump-budget-proposal/>

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/03/white-house-proposes-steep-budget-cut-to-leading-climate-science-agency/>

⁴ <http://www.theverge.com/2017/1/24/14372940/trump-gag-order-epa-environmental-protection-agency-health-agriculture>

College of Liberal Arts; and Doug Dempster, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, to issue press releases condemning these federal actions and affirming our university's commitment to free inquiry and expression

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (4): That this resolution be sent to Mr. Gregory Fenves, *President of The University of Texas at Austin*, _____