



Resolution No. 1920-03

A Resolution for the Multicultural Student Organization Fee to be Applied to Graduate and Professional Students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE GATHERED THAT:

- WHEREAS,** The Multicultural Student Organizations Fee is a student fee which already exists, but is only paid for by undergraduate students at MU; and
- WHEREAS,** The Multicultural Student Organizations Fee is the only student fee which Graduate and Professional Students do not pay; and
- WHEREAS,** It has been determined by an investigation that graduate and professional students do not have access to discretionary funds provided by this fee; and
- WHEREAS,** The Multicultural Student Organizations Fee pays for some of the graduate assistants, discretionary funding, and multicultural umbrella organizations, such as the Asian American Student Association, the Association of Latin American Students, and Queer Liberation Front; and
- WHEREAS,** Organizations falling under these umbrella organizations can request funds by event/program or by a proportion of the fee received by the umbrella organization; and
- WHEREAS,** Many graduate and professional students do not feel comfortable going to organization meetings that are primarily ran by undergraduate students and which are supported only by undergraduate fee dollars; and
- WHEREAS,** Graduate and professional students do not attend organizational meetings as a result of the desire to not cross professional boundaries with students or a lack of sense of community or belonging within those organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** The lack of graduate and professional specific programming within the Social Justice Centers can be addressed with more resources; and
- WHEREAS,** The existing multicultural organizations are not likely to prioritize graduate and professional student needs until they have more resources specifically to do so; and
- WHEREAS,** We currently have a few active multicultural graduate organizations, such as OUTLaw (LGBTQ law student group), VOICE (Veterinary Students as One in Culture & Ethnicity), AGPSA (African Graduate and Professional Student Association), LGPN (Latinx Graduate and Professional Network), one graduate organization that is trying to come back, OUTGrad (Queer Graduate Student Association), and one graduate organization that is trying to establish in spring 2020, Women of Color Graduate and Professional Student Association; and
- WHEREAS,** Applying the Multicultural Student Organization Fee to graduate and professional students would open up the possibilities for graduate organizations to apply for an annual budget and the discretionary funding (\$750/event focused on diversity); and
- WHEREAS,** This additional funding would allow the Social Justice Centers to more easily fund graduate organizations and programming, thus allowing the Social Justice Centers to better support graduate and professional students; therefore be it



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RESOLVED, By majority vote of the General Assembly here gathered, that the Graduate Professional Council supports applying the Multicultural Student Organizations Fee to graduate and professional students starting in AY 2020-2021, such fees to be earmarked exclusively for graduate and professional student use; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Graduate Professional Council recommends to the Student Fee Review Committee that graduate and professional students pay a proportional amount of the multicultural fee as determined by credit hours for a full-time student, which would be in the amount of \$2.79 per semester in 2019-2020 (and which may be higher for 2020-2021 depending on a request for an inflationary adjustment); and be it further

RESOLVED, The Graduate Professional Council encourages the Student Fee Review Committee to explore ways of reallocating student fee dollars paid by graduate and professional students to minimize the increase in total fee dollars paid by graduate and professional students each semester; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly hereby authorizes a referendum of the graduate and professional student body to consummate this new fee; and be it further

RESOLVED, Upon approval, the Graduate Professional Council and the Student Fee Review Committee shall collaborate and impose rules on how to allocate the fee dollars to the graduate multicultural and social justice groups on campus.

SUBMITTED,

Nanxi Xu, GPC Treasurer

Sterling Waldman, GPC At-Large Representative