

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE
96th SESSION, 2016-2017

Resolution 99

**A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO ESTABLISH INCREASED
TRANSPARENCY IN GRADUATE STUDENT FUNDING**

Short Title: Funding Transparency Act

Sponsors: Senator Park (Corresponding), Senator Lentz

Secondary Sponsors: Senator Poteat, Senator Reinhardt, Senator Savage

Signatories: GSA President Tyler Allen, Krystin Gollihue, Meredith Spence, Chen Chen, Stephen Carradini, Jonathan Milward, GSA VP of Public Relations Benjamin Dictus, Sugandha Singh, Caroline Leitschuh, Megan Serr, Jonathan Giacomini

Referred to: Committee on University Affairs

Version: Committee

First Reading: 3/15/17 **Second Reading:** 3/29/17

WHEREAS, NC State departments and colleges with graduate programs currently do not openly report metrics in an easily accessible manner that reveal in detail the specificities of graduate funding; and,

WHEREAS, Due to the complexity of graduate funding and autonomy given to professors, there is often little accountability for the loss or instability of funding; and,

WHEREAS, Chemical and Engineering News reports a “2014 study conducted by the Graduate Assembly of the University of California, Berkeley, found that 47% of UC Berkeley Ph.D. students who responded to the survey reached the threshold considered to be depressed”¹; and,

WHEREAS, Finances are a contributor to chronic graduate student stress² and “60 percent of master’s students and 55 percent of doctoral students report feeling stressed about their finances,” according to a study by the Council of Graduate Schools and TIAA³; and,

WHEREAS, Whilst many issues exist in terms of funding and advisor relationships for graduate students, the implementation of a funding transparency program is a baseline with which stress from the financial uncertainty of graduate funding may be lessened through a realistic understanding of funding prospects. Furthermore, such a program could be a medium for self-reflection within NC State colleges and departments⁴; now therefore so be it,

RESOLVED, NC State Student Government recommends the creation of a central website where the following metrics will be reported for each graduate program: percent of unfunded students, percent of students on assistantships, average total funding

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for funded students year by year for years one through four, and percent of students that are retained in the program in which they were originally matriculated. The University of Toronto's "Understand your Funding" website could serve as a model⁵; and be it further,

RESOLVED, NC State Student Government recommends all college and departments at NC State that have funded graduate students be required to report to the aforementioned central website; and be it further,

RESOLVED, Copies of this bill be sent to Chancellor Randy Woodson, Provost Warwick Arden, the Deans of every College, and the department head of every graduate program at NC State; and be it further,

RESOLVED, This bill be effective upon enrollment.

Jamie Plummer, Student Senate President
96th Session

Paul Nolan, Student Body President
96th Session

¹Wang, L. Opening Up About Stress in Graduate School. *Chem Eng News*. [Online] **2015**, 93:36, 59-61 <http://cen.acs.org/articles/93/i36/Opening-Stress-Graduate-School.html> (Accessed Mar 01, 2017)

²Oswalt, S. B.; Riddock, C. C. What to Do about Being Overwhelmed: Graduate Students, Stress and University Services. *College Stud. Affairs J.* [Online] **2007**, 27:1, 24-44 <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ899402.pdf> (Accessed Mar 01, 2017)

³ Business Wire. Majority of Graduate Students Stress About Finances, Seek Information on Long-Term Financial Security. <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20161117005791/en/Majority-Graduate-Students-Stress-Finances-Seek-Information> (Accessed Mar 11, 2017)

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⁴Hughes, H. Report Calls for more Transparent Graduate Funding. *Western News* [Online] **2016**
<http://news.westernu.ca/2016/03/report-calls-for-more-transparent-graduate-funding/> (Accessed
Feb 22, 2017)

⁵University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies. Understand your Funding.
<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/gradfunding/Pages/default.aspx> (Accessed Feb 25, 2017)