

Grad Student Fees Senate Resolution

Whereas graduate students, who serve as graduate assistants (GAs), graduate teaching assistants (GTAs), and graduate research assistants (GRAs) are critical educators and scholars who work tirelessly and diligently to further the missions of Auburn University, and

Whereas continued increases in student services fees have become a significant economic hurdle, hurting graduate students who depend upon their stipends for living expenses and making their financial situation untenable, and

Whereas an unannounced 66% (from \$350 to \$582) increase in student fees was incurred during the summer of 2021 and

Whereas a reduction of that amount by \$100 appears to be a one-time adjustment, without proffered increase in salary structure, and

Whereas the summer session is 2/3 of the length of a standard semester (10 weeks vs 15 weeks) and

Whereas the University levies a Summer charge identical to those of the Spring and Fall semester for enrolled students, and

Whereas graduate assistants must enroll in the summer session to retain employment, thereby incurring a fee,

Be it resolved that the Auburn University Senate affirm the importance of graduate students to teaching and research at Auburn University.

Be it further resolved that the Senate ask the University administration clearly communicate, in early 2022, a decision on student services fees for graduate assistants to the entire Auburn University graduate student community.

Be it further resolved that the Senate advocate for the University Administration to consider ways to mitigate graduate student services fees for specific categories that are not frequently used by graduate students, so that fees are commensurate with the services used by the graduate student population

Be it further resolved that the Senate advocate for the University Administration to reduce graduate student services fees that are charged in the summer semester for graduate assistants, in order to ease the disproportionate impact of the summer service fees on the graduate population.