

Resolution Establishing an Advocacy Platform for NAGPS

Whereas, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) was created with its purpose to represent graduate-professional student interests, and;

Whereas, the NAGPS has a legislative platform which is annually reviewed and approved by our membership to guide its legislative priorities, and;

Whereas, not all advocacy issues which affect graduate students are legislative in nature, and;

Whereas, the NAGPS National Board is an elected and representative body which has advocacy positions assigned to focus on issues of employment concerns, international student concerns, and social justice concerns, and;

Whereas, the need to respond to events which affect graduate students are not necessarily predictable so that pressing advocacy topics have not been taken up by the NAGPS National Board due to the lack of an advocacy platform, and;

Whereas, the issues of graduate student unionization has been a critical issue to which the NAGPS leadership has not responded in 2015 and it is paramount that NAGPS represent the advocacy interests of its member schools as well as their legislative interests, therefore be it;

Resolved, the Advocacy Board of the NAGPS should develop a non-legislative advocacy platform based on the attached document, and;

Resolved, this non-legislative platform organizes concerns related to four major graduate experiences regarding student employment, international students, on-campus relations, and social justice, and the ordering only reflects an alphabetical categorization of these concerns;

Resolved, the NAGPS National Board shall interpret their positions as representatives of the body as empowered to respond to issues which affect graduate student in consultation with each other.



Advocacy Platform

Employment Concerns

1. NAGPS supports the rights of students to decide to organize, and supports the efforts of students to unionize at their individual universities.
2. NAGPS supports the rights of student workers, including: support for a living wage, support for fair employment practices, and support for nondiscriminatory hiring practices. NAGPS supports the recognition of graduate student workers as productive employees of their member institutions.
3. NAGPS supports the right of graduate students to access worker's compensation in the event of accident or injury while pursuing educational goals

Social Justice

1. NAGPS supports the rights of students who are victims of sexual assault and relationship violence, including rights to due process.
2. NAGPS supports policies of affirmative consent, including but not limited to policies of "Yes Means Yes"
3. NAGPS supports the rights of diverse students to be free from discrimination; including but not limited to students of color, students of all sexual orientation, gender identity, and students of diverse identities.
4. NAGPS supports the right of students to free speech and advocacy, recognizing the important contributions of graduate students to issues of diversity and fair treatment of people of color, fair hourly wages, and issues of immigration, among others.
5. NAGPS supports the right of students to academic freedom and right of expression, free from censorship.

International Student Concerns

1. NAGPS supports the rights outlined in our legislative platform for international students.
2. NAGPS supports international students' rights to feel secure and welcomed by the culture of their institutions.
3. NAGPS supports nondiscrimination against international students on the issues of housing and employment
4. NAGPS supports the right of international students to be free from coercion or bullying in issues of employment. International students should have the right to fair hours and the ability to visit their home countries.

On Campus Concerns

1. NAGPS supports the right to affordable education for graduate students, including fees and tuition that are fair and reasonable and financially supported by their institutions.
2. NAGPS supports the rights of graduate student parents, including parental leave and access to affordable childcare.
3. NAGPS supports the right of students to leaves of absence for personal support, including; family leave, bereavement leave, leave for caretakers, and medical leaves of absence.
4. NAGPS supports access to affordable healthcare and comprehensive coverage, including coverage for international students.
5. NAGPS supports extension of benefits to graduate and professional students that are currently exclusively offered to undergraduate students to the extent to which those benefits are relevant to the graduate and professional student population.
6. NAGPS supports open communication between students and administrators about the rights and responsibilities of graduate and professional students.

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