

**Faculty Senate Budget Priorities Committee Resolution
on a UB GA Living Stipend**

To: Professor Philip Glick, Chair, Faculty Senate

From: Faculty Senate Budget Priorities Committee (as endorsed on 4/2/2019)

Date Proposed to FSEC: 4/3/2019

First Reading to the Faculty Senate: 4/16/19

Second Reading to the Faculty Senate: 5/14/19

Approved by the Faculty Senate: 5/14/19

Effective Date:

Whereas UB, a major research university, fulfills its mission partly through recruiting graduate students to whom it offers tuition waivers, healthcare and other benefits, and stipends for living expenses, in return for 20 hours of work a week as teaching, research, or graduate assistants (hereafter “UB GAs”);

Whereas UB declares that UB GAs should be [“full-time matriculated graduate or professional students at UB who are able to devote their full attention to their graduate program,”](#) who ordinarily [“will not hold jobs outside the university”](#);ⁱ

Whereas too many UB GAs receive support that falls far short of the [\\$18,000](#)ⁱⁱ in “indirect costs” estimated by UB Financial Aid, let alone the minimum subsistence wage of [\\$24,072 for one adult living in “Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY”](#)ⁱⁱⁱ;

Whereas higher UB GA stipends will positively affect graduate instruction at UB, increase its appeal as a graduate school, and bolster its reputation as a leading research institution;

Whereas, these current stipends push UB GAs into debt, outside jobs, public assistance, and food insecurity, causing undue hardship for them;

Whereas, all parties agree that our graduate students should not be living in aforesaid conditions;

Whereas, those most directly impacted by the level of support offered to UB GAs, the UB GAs themselves, should have direct input into how living stipends are achieved;

Whereas, there has been a precedent set by the 2018-2019 Gender Equity Salary Study (GESS) to address issues of urgent concern by creating an ad hoc committee representing the various pillars of shared governance,

Therefore be it resolved, that in the spirit of shared governance, the UB Faculty Senate Budget Priorities Committee, the UB Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and the UB Faculty Senate strongly urges the provost to acknowledge the urgency and importance of ensuring that UB GAs receive living wage stipends (equal to or higher than the “minimum subsistence wage” as determined by the MIT Living Wage calculator) sufficient without outside employment to keep them from struggling with financial hardship such as poverty and food insecurity, and to make this issue a high priority for the administration to resolve as soon as possible, and

Be it further resolved, that we urge the Provost, the Chair of the Faculty Senate, and the president of the GSA (or their designee) to immediately and jointly form an ad-hoc Living Stipend Solutions Committee (LSS Committee) including members of the faculty, administration, and members of the graduate student body, and consultants as needed, whose charge is to identify viable solutions to the ongoing, unacceptable financial circumstances of many UB GAs, and to recommend an actionable plan that can be implemented by AY 2020-21 or sooner for ensuring that all UB GAs receive a living wage stipend, and

Be it further resolved, that the committee be co-chaired equally by administration, faculty, and graduate students, and

Be it further resolved, that the graduate student body members of the committee include members of the Graduate Student Association, and the Living Stipend Movement, and

Be it further resolved, that the administration make available all data needed by the committee to carry out their charge.

Sent for Consideration on:

Decision:

ⁱ <https://grad.buffalo.edu/explore/funding/jobs.html>

ⁱⁱ Total indirect costs reported by <https://financialaid.buffalo.edu/costs/graduate/>, as of 3/4/2019.

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/15380>