

*A Resolution Supporting The Proposal for Expanding the Spring/Summer 30% Tuition Discount to Graduate And Professional Students.*

Presented on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019

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**WHEREAS**, Financial barriers, such as the high cost of tuition, are some of the most impactful barriers that prevent students from graduating and completing their programs of study in a timely manner;<sup>1</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Wayne State University has dedicated significant resources to raise its retention and graduation rates in recent years, producing much success;<sup>2</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Recognizing the impact of financial barriers on student success, Wayne State University enacted a program giving a 30% tuition discount to qualified undergraduate students who take courses in the Spring/Summer semester;<sup>3</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, The Spring/Summer tuition discount program was designed to give qualified undergraduate students an incentive for making further progress toward degree attainment in a timely manner; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Since the Spring/Summer tuition discount for undergraduate students was implemented, the number of credits taken in the Spring/Summer semester by undergraduate students has increased, pushing them forward and bringing them closer to graduation faster;<sup>4</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, The exclusion of graduate and professional students from this tuition discount program does not encourage graduate and professional students to enroll and attend courses

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<sup>1</sup> *With Their Whole Lives Ahead of Them: Myths and Realities About Why So Many Students Fail to Finish College*, Public Agenda Report for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> Wayne State University wins national award for huge improvement in graduation rates (<https://today.wayne.edu/news/2018/11/12/wayne-state-university-wins-national-award-for-huge-improvement-in-graduation-rates-23240>).

<sup>3</sup> Wayne State offers 30% cut for tuition and housing for 2016 spring and summer semesters (<https://today.wayne.edu/news/2016/02/09/wayne-state-offers-30-cut-for-tuition-and-housing-for-2016-spring-and-summer-semester-6301>).

<sup>4</sup> Wayne State University Office of Institutional Research and Analysis Student Credit Hours Dashboard (<https://oira.wayne.edu/dashboards>).

during the Spring/Summer semester, or make steady progress toward attaining their degrees in a timely manner; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Graduate and professional students face particular financial barriers in the pursuit of their degrees, as they do not qualify for the subsidized loans or institutional financial aid that their undergraduate peers qualify for;<sup>5</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, These funding options inadequately cover the costs of education and make it harder for graduate and professional students to pay for school, both during and after graduation; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Some programs, such as the MSW Advanced Standing Program in the School of Social Work, mandate students take Spring/Summer classes, requiring them to pay high tuition costs throughout the whole year;<sup>6</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, The number of credit hours taken by graduate students is currently declining;<sup>7</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Graduate students take a greater proportion of their credits in the Spring/Summer semester than undergraduate students;<sup>8</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, It is the core mission of the Wayne State University Student Senate to support initiatives that break down the barriers that prevent students from succeeding at Wayne State University.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls on the University administration to expand the eligibility for the 30% tuition discount program to include graduate and professional students this upcoming Spring/Summer semester, and to sustain this program expansion in perpetuity.

**AND FINALLY BE IT ORDERED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this resolution to all relevant outlets, including the University President, the University Provost, the members of the Board of Governors, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the President of the Wayne State University Academic Senate.

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Stuart Baum  
President

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Mazen Zamzam  
Vice President

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<sup>5</sup> 4 Differences between Grad and Undergrad Loans, U.S. News & World Report (<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/paying/articles/2014/03/11/4-ways-graduate-student-loans-differ-from-college-debt>).

<sup>6</sup> WSU School of Social Work Master of Social Work (<https://socialwork.wayne.edu/msw>).

<sup>7</sup> Wayne State University Office of Institutional Research and Analysis Student Credit Hours Dashboard (<https://oira.wayne.edu/dashboards>).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.