



GSO Senate Resolution 14.06

A Resolution for Grant Program Review

Whereas, GSO Travel Grants create positive benefits for the graduate student population as a whole by helping to promote students on the job market, allowing students to have access to critical professional opportunities, and encouraging outstanding student scholarship; and

Whereas, The Grants program has been one of the fastest growing sections of the GSO budget, and currently comprises 13.65% of the total GSO budget; and

Whereas, The GSO recently has found itself in a weaker financial position, necessitating budget cuts, potential future cuts, and critical assessment; and

Whereas, Historically, the Travel Grant has had very high, over a 90% award rate, and the number of people applying has been used as the justification for increasing funding; and

Whereas, Detailed Senate oversight of the Grant committee has not historically occurred; and

Whereas, The Grant website states that “grants are awarded on the basis of merit and need,” yet need is not explicitly used in the process of awarding grants; and

Whereas, The Finance Committee has experience with running grant programs and intricate knowledge of the GSO budget; and

Whereas, The GSO should always act as public stewards of graduate student money, collected through the student fees every semester; therefore be it

Resolved, *that* the Senate instruct the Finance Committee to assess the financial implications of the GSO Grant programs and to make recommendations in conjunction with representatives from the Grant Committee on the future funding levels as part of the budget and fee increase consideration process, and that the Finance Committee review GSO fiscal policies relating to the grant programs. The committee must issue a report to the Senate no later than the March 26, 2014 meeting.