



**GSO Senate Resolution 15.11**

**A Resolution Proposing an Increased Minimum Stipend for Teaching and Research Assistants**

**Whereas**, the GSO conducted a comprehensive survey of graduate teaching, research, and other assistants in spring 2013, finding that the minimum TA and RA stipend is insufficient to support living in the City of Syracuse area during the assistantship contract duration, resulting in last year's 7% increase in the minimum stipend amount, and;

**Whereas**, TA and RA contracts prohibit taking outside work except with permission from the student's department, while other forms of financial support are eliminated (subsidized graduate student Stafford loans) or are made more expensive (graduate student loan interest rates are no longer tied to undergraduate student loans rates and now have a significantly higher cap), and;

**Whereas**, the most conservative living wage estimate found for the Syracuse area places the living wage for a nine month period at \$14,102.40<sup>1</sup>, still above the current minimum stipend of \$13,000, necessitating two years of 6.25% increases to reach this living wage level in 2016, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the GSO proposes two further years of increases in the minimum graduate teaching and research assistantship nine-month, 20-hour contract stipend of at least 7% for 2015-2016 and at least 6.25% for 2016-2017, with a target of \$14,779.38 for the 2016 fiscal year.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://livingwage.mit.edu/places/3606773000>