



RESOLUTION ON STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE'S IMPLEMENTATION
PROPOSAL REGARDING THE ADMISSIONS OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS
OFFERING Ph.D. DEGREES

Whereas, one of the three priority areas of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Strategic Plan, *Achieving Our Destiny (2011-2015)*, is to find different avenues in addressing and improving graduate education; and

Whereas, the Strategic Planning Committee's implementation proposal, written and presented during academic year 2011-2012 to the UH Mānoa's Graduate Student Organization and other University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's campus stakeholders, cites a need to augment and address concerns regarding the funding structure for graduate students in Ph.D. programs; and

Whereas, in order to facilitate a pathway to address the funding structure goal, the Strategic Planning Committee has proposed verbatim: *...that graduate programs offering Ph.D. degrees admit only students for whom UH Mānoa can offer 5 years of funding (non-sequential)*; and

Whereas, the Strategic Planning Committee has articulated in writing that graduate programs offering Ph.D. degrees should (1) provide five years of funding for graduate students and (2) only admit graduate students if full financial support is readily available; now, therefore,

Resolved, that the Graduate Student Organization, who represents over 5,000 graduate students attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, supports the idea and intent to improve graduate education via a proposal of having a funding structure for graduate students in Ph.D. programs; and be it further

Resolved, that the Graduate Student Organization, however, has reservations and concerns on the wording of the proposed line: *...that graduate programs offering Ph.D. degrees admit only students for whom UH Mānoa can offer 5 years of funding (non-sequential)*; and be it further

Resolved, that the above description that Ph.D. programs "admit only students" if five years of financial support is readily available, obfuscates how the Ph.D. program admissions process will be conducted and unknowingly can create a detrimental impact to existing Ph.D. programs, in the near future such as shrinking or closing current Ph.D. programs; and be it further

Resolved, that the Strategic Planning Committee's written policy reflecting the initiative to address funding structure goal for graduate students in Ph.D. programs contradicts the oral presentation given by Strategic Planning Committee, presented to the Graduate Student Organization on May 9, 2012, that the described policy will not shrink nor negatively impact existing Ph.D. programs; and be it further

Resolved, that the Graduate Student Organization of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa hereby strongly recommends that the Strategic Planning Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee's Implementation Working Group on Ph.D. Student Funding rewrite and clarify, with all intent purposes, the ambiguous sentence: *...graduate programs offering Ph.D. degrees admit only students for whom UH Mānoa can offer 5 years of*

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funding (non-sequential); and

Resolved, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Chancellor Tom Apple, Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair Bonnyjean Manini, Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chairs Sarita Rai and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Reed Dasenbrock, Strategic Planning Coordinator Susan Hippensteele, University of Hawai'i President M.R.C. Greenwood, the Board of Regents, and Ka Leo O Hawai'i.

Resolved, on July 26, 2012, the General Assembly of the Graduate Student Organization voted in approval, support, and dissemination of this resolution to the above named parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Tom Robinson Jr.', is written over a horizontal line.

8-23-12

Thomas E. Robinson Jr.
Graduate Student Organization (GSO) President