

**Resolution Opposing the Re-Classification of
Student Leadership Stipends as Financial Aid or Assistance**
Adopted by the Steering Committee of the DSC on September 7, 2018

WHEREAS, the DSC promotes the democratization of the City University of New York (hereafter, "CUNY") in order to enable its students, faculty, and staff to participate in the important social, political, and economic decisions that affect the quality of their lives and of their community; and

WHEREAS, the DSC serves as the allocating body for Student Government Fees as a portion of all Student Activity Fees, subject to review by the Graduate Center College Association; and

WHEREAS, each student of the Graduate Center pays student activity fees; and

WHEREAS, the new procedure would now involve the classification of student leadership stipends as "financial aid" or "financial assistance," thus potentially prohibiting some students from receiving stipend payments on the basis of not being eligible to receive financial aid or assistance; and

WHEREAS, it is the utmost priority of the Steering Committee of the DSC to ensure that all eligible students may have the option to serve as student leaders, regardless of their residency status, their right to work within the United States, or their enrollment in a master's degree program; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that student leaders receive the pay that is commensurate to their labor; and

WHEREAS, these recent changes in policy implementation has resulted in the Steering Committee of the DSC, Affiliate Coordinators, and Social Media Correspondents providing services to students without compensation since July 2018; and

WHEREAS, the various administrative offices at the Graduate Center have failed to produce the precise legal language justifying this change in policy implementation; and

WHEREAS, this procedural change, if rolled out on the other campuses would threaten the democracy and legitimacy of student governance CUNY-wide; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Steering Committee of the DSC refuses to comply with any procedure change that places oversight over Student Activity Fees into the hands of an administrative body within the Graduate Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Steering Committee of the DSC refuses to comply with any procedure that reclassifies Student Leadership Stipends as Financial Aid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Steering Committee of the DSC refuses to comply with a policy that could discriminate against the right of International Students and Master's students to serve as student leaders; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, the Steering Committee of the DSC orders the immediate processing of all back-owed stipend requests (July 2018, August, 2018, and September 2018) by the Business office the Graduate Center, without their reporting to the Office of Financial Aid; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Steering Committee of the DSC will engage directly with the Office of Financial Aid to resolve this matter in a manner that is just for all students.