

Resolution on Space Usage Policies at the Graduate Center

Unanimously adopted on December 9th, 2011

WHEREAS, the Graduate Center has an institutional duty to provide opportunities for scholarly events and dialogue; and

WHEREAS, students at the Graduate Center frequently play an integral role in organizing, presenting, and managing events within the building; and

WHEREAS, currently students (as well as staff and faculty) have no access to calendars of availability or detailed policies for use of key public spaces such as the Elebash Recital Hall, Proshansky Auditorium, Segal Theatre, Skylight Room, Concourse, Science Center, and smaller conference rooms and classrooms; and

WHEREAS, recent program-led conferences have been charged rent for space usage despite the following statement in the [Facilities Use and Access Policy](#) on the Graduate Center website: "Space-use fees are not charged for Graduate Center Ph.D. and M.A. programs, Graduate Center research centers and institutes, the Doctoral Students' Council, chartered doctoral student organizations, and registered staff and faculty organizations when the event is substantially and substantively the primary effort of one or more of these Graduate Center bodies"; and

WHEREAS, private events held for purely commercial purposes have been occurring more frequently in Graduate Center meeting spaces while it grows increasingly difficult for programs and student groups to reserve those same spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Center, as a public institution of higher learning should prioritize the events of its own faculty and students over private rentals; therefore, now, be it

RESOLVED, that the Doctoral Students' Council demands the Graduate Center

administration to come into compliance with posted Graduate Center policies and provide open, fair, and cost-free access to event and meeting space for Ph.D. and M.A. programs, Graduate Center research centers and institutes, the Doctoral Students' Council, chartered student organizations, and registered staff and faculty organizations to schedule events on campus; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all programs, research centers and institutes, and student or staff organizations previously charged for space usage in violation of their right to hold events on campus be reimbursed the full amount they paid; and

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the DSC calls on the Graduate Center to use its space and resources in a manner consistent with its role as a public institution of higher learning.