

**Resolution for the Formation of a Democratic Budget Committee  
at the Graduate Center, CUNY**

*Adopted by the DSC on April 12, 2019*

WHEREAS, the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (hereafter, "DSC") shares the historic mission of the City University of New York (hereafter, "CUNY") in providing access to higher education to low-income communities and communities of color in New York City and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, austerity budget policies have been increasing over the last decade, resulting in tuition hikes, restricted department course units, increased per-class enrollment, and ultimately shifting costs onto a growing population of tuition-paying Master's students for whom resources are limited; and

WHEREAS, many students, faculty and staff at the Graduate Center community have denounced these austerity measures, as well as poor budget decisions, such as the expansion of Master's programs without a clear plan to fund them, or the creation of costly new administrative positions; and

WHEREAS, transparent and democratic budgeting can better address many ongoing issues students face, such as the demands for tuition remission for all doctoral students, full and fair funding for all Graduate Center students, and the standardization of Science Fellows' work experiences;

WHEREAS, budget decisions at the Graduate Center, with the sole exception of the College Association, are made by a relatively small number of administrators, with little to no participation by the wider Graduate Center community; and

WHEREAS, article [VIII sec. 8.7 of the CUNY Bylaws](#)<sup>1</sup> mandates each campus to have a committee on budget charged to review the annual tentative budget before the president submits it to the Chancellor; and

WHEREAS, the advisory [Budget Committee](#)<sup>2</sup>, convened for the first time in Spring 2018 by former president Chase Robinson, is comprised of appointed members in an advisory capacity, and with no real decision-making power, does not meet the standard of a truly democratic budget committee; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Center can only serve the needs of its community through transparent and democratic budget decision-making; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the DSC calls on the Graduate Council to take imminent measures towards budget transparency and democratization at the Graduate Center; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the DSC calls on the President of the Graduate Center, and other involved administrators and leaders, to democratize the role of the existing advisory budget committee, in order to give it an active and legitimate role in college budget decision-making, with appropriate time for faculty, staff and students to review and vote on the planned budget; and, be it

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the DSC calls on the Graduate Council, jointly with other Graduate Center governing bodies, to form a democratically elected budget committee composed of an equal number of faculty, students, and staff starting in the fall of 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://policy.cuny.edu/policyimport/bylaws/article\\_viii/section\\_8.7./text/index.html#Navigation\\_Location](http://policy.cuny.edu/policyimport/bylaws/article_viii/section_8.7./text/index.html#Navigation_Location)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Administrative-Services/Business-Finance/Budget/Budget-Committee>