

Resolution in Support of CUNY Ph.D. SOS

*Adopted by the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Steering Committees of the
Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council on June 15, 2020*

WHEREAS, the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (hereinafter, "CUNY") promotes academic excellence, creative and independent thinking and strives to train graduate students in that spirit; and

WHEREAS, the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (hereinafter, "DGSC") comprises representatives from Doctoral and Master's programs at the Graduate Center, CUNY; and

WHEREAS, the DGSC, in the spirit of CUNY's public mission, promotes democratization within the university in order to empower 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, CUNY is the country's largest urban public university system and located in the city at the center of the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, CUNY PhD and MA research projects across all disciplines have been put on hold because of concerns related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, CUNY PhD and MA classes were disrupted and then taught online in an ad-hoc fashion, with professors untrained in online teaching; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the impact of this crisis on research, CUNY has already joined more than 60 other universities in offering tenure-track faculty a one-year extension on their tenure clocks; and

WHEREAS, As early-stage academics themselves, PhD students at the Graduate Center need as much support as tenure-track faculty; and

WHEREAS, PhD and MA students are paradigmatically in a financially precarious position; and

WHEREAS, Alternate sources of graduate funding (adjunct appointments, post-docs, fellowships) are drying up in the aftermath of COVID; and

WHEREAS, Health insurance and a living wage are necessary for all students to finish their degrees on time; and

WHEREAS, Most MA students at the Graduate Center had to handle similar obstacles to their research, all the while paying tuition out-of-pocket; and

WHEREAS, in response to the need for emergency funding Graduate Center students organized the CUNY PhD SOS campaign and wrote an open letter, which was supported by over 1000 students, faculty and staff at the Graduate Center; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2020, the DGSC Steering Committee issued a public statement in support of the Open Letter Urging CUNY to Provide Emergency Funding for Graduate Students in light of the COVID-19 crisis; let it be

RESOLVED, that the DGSC Steering Committee strongly supports the demands of the CUNY PhD SOS campaign for emergency funding and health insurance for all Doctoral students and a one-year tuition waiver for all Master's students (plus a one-year extension of any and all support they currently receive); and let it be

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the DGSC demands that interim President Muyskens, incoming President Garrell and Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez work together to meet the demands of the CUNY PhD SOS campaign, and provide emergency funding and health insurance for one year to all current and incoming Doctoral students and for a one-year tuition waiver for all Master's students (plus a one-year extension of any and all support they currently receive).