



2021-01  
University at Buffalo Graduate Student Association Inc.  
310 Student Union  
Buffalo, NY 14260

**RESOLUTION 2021-01**

**TO: Members of the Board of Directors**

**FROM: J Coley, GSA President**

**DATE: 4 November 2020**

**SUBJECT: Resolution to Oppose University Imposed Graduate Students Fees**

WHEREAS the University at Buffalo Graduate Student Association Inc. (UB GSA) Board of Directors may enact resolutions concerning issues of importance to the graduate student body in regards to issues of academic policy, student rights, and student welfare;

WHEREAS as of Fall 2020 the University at Buffalo had a total enrollment of 31,923 students, 10,002 of which were graduate students;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS New York State full-time resident graduate students are charged \$2,928 in University imposed fees for the 2020-2021 academic year;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS the comprehensive fee was increased by 2.03% for the 2020-2021 academic year, despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS the University at Buffalo modified its Comprehensive Fee Waiver policy only allowing students in an exclusively online degree program to apply for a waiver during the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic;<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS the estimated cost of living for a single adult in Buffalo/Erie County as of 2019 is \$25,271;<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.buffalo.edu/home/ub\\_at\\_a\\_glance.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/home/ub_at_a_glance.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.buffalo.edu/studentaccounts/tuition-and-fees/fall.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.buffalo.edu/studentaccounts/tuition-and-fees/broad-based-fees.html>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.buffalo.edu/studentaccounts/tuition-and-fees/broad-based-fees/comprehensive-fee/comprehensive-fee-waiver.html#title\\_660120488](http://www.buffalo.edu/studentaccounts/tuition-and-fees/broad-based-fees/comprehensive-fee/comprehensive-fee-waiver.html#title_660120488)

<sup>5</sup> <https://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/15380>

WHEREAS the University at Buffalo spends a higher percentage of total salaries on administrative spending than any peer institution;<sup>6</sup>

WHEREAS the University at Buffalo could save over \$23 million if their administrative spending was at the average level of peer institutions;<sup>7</sup>

WHEREAS in August 2019, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) promised to provide supplemental funding to cover the actual cost of fees for fully-funded PhD students in the CAS beginning in the 2020-2021 academic year as part of the PhD Excellence Initiative;<sup>8</sup>

WHEREAS in March 2020 the College of Arts and Sciences went back on this promise to provide supplemental funding to cover the actual cost of University imposed fees for fully-funded PhD students in the CAS beginning in the 2020-2021 academic year;<sup>9</sup>

WHEREAS the University at Buffalo has the financial capacity to support graduate students, despite the October 12<sup>th</sup> email sent out by President Tripathi claiming that the pandemic has created, “very serious financial implications for UB”;<sup>10</sup>

WHEREAS mandated student fees continue to be a significant financial burden on graduate students;

WHEREAS Graduate Student employees in terminal degree programs at Stony Brook University will no longer be required to pay any Broad-Based Fees beginning the Spring 2021 semester;<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS the University at Buffalo Campus Living is charging students an additional fee per night to stay in their on-campus housing over winter break, despite already paying an academic year fee for this housing. This additional fee is a way to further exploit already financially burdened students during the global COVID-19 pandemic;<sup>12</sup>

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The graduate student body of the University at Buffalo strongly supports the efforts of the Living Stipend Movement led by Graduate Assistants at the University at Buffalo and calls on President Tripathi, Provost Weber, Vice Provost Hammill, and the University at

---

<sup>6</sup> <https://ublivingstipend.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/buffalo-financial-analysis-bunsis-september-2020.pdf>

(Financial Analysis of the University of Buffalo in the Middle of the Coronavirus Pandemic: Howard Bunsis September 2020)

<sup>7</sup> <https://ublivingstipend.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/buffalo-financial-analysis-bunsis-september-2020.pdf>

(Financial Analysis of the University of Buffalo in the Middle of the Coronavirus Pandemic: Howard Bunsis September 2020)

<sup>8</sup> <https://ublivingstipend.wordpress.com/2020/09/13/cas-goes-back-on-their-word-wont-pay-grads-student-fees/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://ublivingstipend.wordpress.com/2020/09/13/cas-goes-back-on-their-word-wont-pay-grads-student-fees/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.buffalo.edu/president/from-the-president/communications/financial-update.html> University Financial Update-President Tripathi

<sup>11</sup> Graduate Student Employees Union - CWA Local 1104 Newsletter

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.buffalo.edu/campusliving/get-help/how-to/your-housing-agreement/break-housing.html>

Buffalo administration to take immediate action to waive all University imposed graduate fees for the 2020-2021 academic year. All graduate broad-based fees collected so far should be reimbursed in full.

2. The University at Buffalo Graduate Student Association Inc. calls for the elimination of all broad-based fees for graduate students beginning in Spring 2021.
3. The University at Buffalo Graduate Student Association Inc. supports holding the College of Arts and Sciences accountable for reversing their promise to provide supplemental funding to all fully-funded PhD students beginning the 2020-2021 academic year.
4. The University at Buffalo Graduate Student Association Inc. will send a letter of support to the leadership of the Graduate Student Employees Union.
5. The University at Buffalo Graduate Student Association Inc. will continue to stand in support of, and to call attention to any issues affecting graduate students at the University at Buffalo.
6. The University at Buffalo Graduate Student Association Inc. will continue to hold the University at Buffalo accountable for their exploitation of graduate students
7. The University at Buffalo Graduate Student Association Inc. calls for the elimination of additional fees for students to stay in on-campus housing over winter break.