



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

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SENATE BILL S24-06 **SENATE MEETING** **03/25/2024**

6 TITLE: Allocation of Funding for Doctoral Dissertation Study Support
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8 WHEREAS: Doctoral students are required to conduct a dissertation study in order to complete
9 their degree and graduate, and
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11 WHEREAS: Dissertations are individual projects where students are often expected to
12 personally fund or find funding to complete elements of their study (i.e: participant incentives,
13 data collection, travel, etc.), and
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15 WHEREAS: For many academic areas, there is limited advisor financial support and scant
16 opportunities for fellowships, university-level funding opportunities, advisory support, or one-
17 time scholarships available, and
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19 WHEREAS: GPSS is charged with developing and disseminating ideas for the improvement of
20 graduate and professional education. Working to remove barriers to student program completion,
21 such as the costs associated with dissertation research, has the potential to impact the broader
22 graduate student community at Iowa State as a whole. Be it therefore,
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24 ENACTED: That GPSS allocates \$40,000 over the course of two years for a total of \$80,000
25 from budgetary surplus for the creation of a dissertation study support award. Whereas doctoral
26 candidate applicants can receive a single one-time payment of \$300 per doctoral student to
27 utilize for the completion of their dissertation research study. Whereas
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29 ENACTED: Eligible students will need to have reached ABD (All But Dissertation) status with
30 funding needs directly related to the completion of their dissertation study that is not already
31 covered by pre-existing labs/supplies, advisory support, or fellowship/scholarship funding, and
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33 ENACTED: Through a first-come, first-served and needs-based application system overseen by
34 the Awards Committee, a review of applications would be conducted, where students could
35 submit their application with proof of ABD status via advisor confirmation, proof of
36 demonstrated need, a proposed budget, a list of expenditures, and other sources of support for
37 their dissertation, and
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39 ENACTED: GPSS will then re-evaluate the program after 2 years to decide if any changes need
40 to be made to better serve students and consider a more permanent inclusion in the budgetary
41 process

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43 Sponsors:
44 Alycia West
45 Christine Cain

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52 Christine Cain, President

Edward Mahoney, Chair of the Senate

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