SENATE BILL S23-04
SENATE MEETING APRIL 24, 2023

TITLE: Establishing an Executive Officer Position and permanent Standing Committee dedicated to Graduate and Professional Student Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA)

WHEREAS: The Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) has the responsibility to address the concerns and issues experienced by graduate students, and

WHEREAS: The GPSS is charged with the responsibility to develop and disseminate ideas, contribute to the formation of relevant policy, and address issues for the improvement of graduate and professional education as outlined in the Constitution, and

WHEREAS: The GPSS is looking to improve its support and understanding of the unique needs and experience of minoritized student groups on campus,

WHEREAS: A designated Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Chair would provide a clear designee and GPSS liaison to address IDEA issues that are presented to the Senate effectively,

WHEREAS: This position and committee would allow GPSS to engage with a wider variety of student needs effectively and directly across the campus and collaborate with existing offices to promote events and share resources that support the needs of all graduate students,

WHEREAS: This position requires significant time commitment. Therefore, a contracted position would provide compensation for the intensive labor that it takes to address and improve the variety of IDEA issues that may be brought forward,

ORDERED: That the GPSS form a Committee on Graduate Student Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility, be it further

ORDERED: That the Standing Committee on Graduate Student Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility will report on its activities during the monthly regular Senate meetings.
ORDERED: That the IDEA Chair be established as a permanent member of the GPSS Executive Council, and

ORDERED: That the scholarship for the IDEA Committee Chair be set to $800 for the fall, $800 for the spring semester, and $600 for the summer.

ORDERED: That the IDEA Committee be given an operating budget of $1000 to pursue IDEA projects.

ORDERED: That an additional $250 be added to the yearly student organization funding allocations for the use and implementation of IDEA-specific initiatives.

_Sponsors:_ Christine Cain, Harish Radhakrishnan, Nicholas J. Bockenstedt, Lizbeth M. Plaza-Torres, Gaurav Arwade

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Christine Cain, President        Caitlyn Campbell, Chair of the Senate