IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

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

TITLE: Allocation of Funding for Doctoral Dissertation Study Support

WHEREAS: Doctoral students are required to conduct a dissertation study in order to complete their degree and graduate, and

WHEREAS: Dissertations are individual projects where students are often expected to personally fund or find funding to complete elements of their study (i.e: participant incentives, data collection, travel, etc.), and

WHEREAS: For many academic areas, there is limited advisor financial support and scant opportunities for fellowships, university-level funding opportunities, advisory support, or one-time scholarships available, and

WHEREAS: GPSS is charged with developing and disseminating ideas for the improvement of graduate and professional education. Working to remove barriers to student program completion, such as the costs associated with dissertation research, has the potential to impact the broader graduate student community at Iowa State as a whole. Be it therefore,

ENACTED: That GPSS allocates $40,000 over the course of two years for a total of $80,000 from budgetary surplus for the creation of a dissertation study support award. Whereas doctoral candidate applicants can receive a single one-time payment of $300 per doctoral student to utilize for the completion of their dissertation research study. Whereas

ENACTED: Eligible students will need to have reached ABD (All But Dissertation) status with funding needs directly related to the completion of their dissertation study that is not already covered by pre-existing labs/supplies, advisory support, or fellowship/scholarship funding, and

ENACTED: Through a first-come, first-served and needs-based application system overseen by the Awards Committee, a review of applications would be conducted, where students could submit their application with proof of ABD status via advisor confirmation, proof of demonstrated need, a proposed budget, a list of expenditures, and other sources of support for their dissertation, and
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ENACTED: GPSS will then re-evaluate the program after 2 years to decide if any changes need to be made to better serve students and consider a more permanent inclusion in the budgetary process

Sponsors:
Alycia West
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Christine Cain, President

Edward Mahoney, Chair of the Senate