



**The General Student Council of the
Graduate Student Association
University of California, Riverside**

Resolution Number: GSCR #2020-01
Title: Resolution Supporting UCR and UC Graduate Student Basic Needs
Sponsored by: Mai Do, Thomas Dugger, Kristoffer Ekroll, Megan Kendzior, Cody Simons,
and Somchate Wasantwisut
Date Submitted: January 30, 2020
Date Approved: February 5, 2020

WHEREAS the Graduate Student Association of the University of California, Riverside (GSAUCR) is the recognized voice of all graduate and professional students at the University of California, Riverside (UCR); and

WHEREAS the GSAUCR General Student Council comprises representatives from every academic department and professional program at UCR, and is therefore the official representative body of graduate students at UCR; and

WHEREAS GSAUCR advocates for the needs of graduate students both on and off campus; and

WHEREAS basic needs include equitable access to affordable food, housing, and transportation, as well as guaranteed accessibility, wellness, and financial literacy to all graduate students, especially those from underrepresented and underserved backgrounds;¹ and

WHEREAS UCR students have equitable access to successful on-campus programs and services such as the R'Pantry, R'Garden, and aspects of mental health services, yet much more can be done to enhance these and provide additional support; and

WHEREAS on December 9, 2019, graduate students at UC Santa Cruz began a wildcat strike based on their request for a cost of living adjustment as a result of Santa Cruz's cost of living, which is as much as 31% higher than the California average and as much as 81% higher than the national average;^{2,3} and

WHEREAS the cost of housing in Riverside is 13% higher than the national average, and the cost of living is 13.2% higher than the national average;⁴ and

WHEREAS the cost of housing in Riverside is 13% lower than the California average, yet the average cost of a 1-bedroom apartment is \$1,594 per month, amounting to approximately 75% of a Teaching Assistant's monthly income;⁵ and

¹ <http://www.basicneeds.ucr.edu>

² <https://www.areavibes.com/santa+cruz-ca/cost-of-living/>

³ <https://payusmoreucsc.com/campaign-timeline/>

⁴ <https://www.salary.com/research/cost-of-living/riverside-ca>.

⁵ <https://www.rentcafe.com/average-rent-market-trends/us/ca/riverside/>.

WHEREAS 29% of all UC graduate and professional students reported being food insecure, including 44% of Black graduate students, 38% of Native American graduate students, 26% of Asian graduate students, 41% of Latinx graduate students, 24% of white graduate students, 27% of international graduate students, and 39% of LGBTQ graduate students;⁶ and

WHEREAS it is the right of all graduate students under UCOP policy to exercise their constitutional right to free speech in support of those causes in which they believe;⁷ now therefore, let it be

RESOLVED that GSAUCR urges the UC system to initiate additional efforts to increase access and affordability of basic needs for graduate students in the UC; and be it further

RESOLVED that the GSAUCR urge the UC and unions representing graduate students negotiate in good faith with each other in the next and all future contract negotiations; and be it further

RESOLVED that the GSAUCR President continue to meet quarterly with the Chancellor, the Provost, the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, and the Dean of Graduate Division to discuss the current status of the UCR Administration's efforts to enhance basic needs for UCR graduate students; and be it further

RESOLVED that the GSAUCR Basic Needs Committee be charged with collecting and maintaining current data on the basic needs of graduate students at UCR; and be it further

RESOLVED that graduate students at the UCR continue to advocate for a fair and equitable standard of living on par with the prestige that the UC system prides itself; and be it further

RESOLVED that an electronic copy of this resolution be distributed to the UC Board of Regents, UC President Janet Napolitano, UCR Chancellor Kim Wilcox, UCR Interim Provost Thomas Smith, UCR Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Brian Haynes, UCR Vice Chancellor of Planning, Budget, & Administration Gerry Bomotti, UCR Vice Chancellor of Advancement Peter Hayashida, UCR Dean of Students Christine Mata, UCR Dean of Graduate Division Shaun Bowler, all current GSAUCR elected and appointed officers, all current GSAUCR departmental representatives, all current UCR graduate students, the Highlander Newspaper, and all relevant media outlets.

John Haberstroh, President

Date

UCR Graduate Student Association

⁶ [2017 Graduate Wellbeing Survey Report.](#)

⁷ [UCOP PACAOS, Sections 30.10-30.40.](#)