

5.2 Resolution Removing the Clause Recommending the Discontinuation of State University Grants for Graduate Students from the Pending ASCSU Resolution AS-3100-12/FGA.

Action:

Removing the Clause Recommending the Discontinuation of State University Grants for Graduate Students from the pending ASCSU Resolution AS-3100-12/FGA

RESOLVED: That the San Diego State University Senate urge the Academic Senate of the California State University to remove the clause recommending the discontinuation of State University Grants for graduate students from its pending Resolution AS-3100-12/FGA, On the California State University Board of Trustees Instituted State University Grants (SUGs).

RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed to members of the Academic Senate of the California State University and in particular to the membership of its Committee on Fiscal and Governmental Affairs.

RATIONALE:

The SUG Program represents a significant—and growing--source of support for graduate students. In 2011/12, 41.1% of SDSU graduate students were SUG recipients (up from 29.19% in 2008/9). Most of the SUGs go to master's students (86.7%), followed by teaching credential students (11.2%), and, in much smaller numbers, doctoral students (2.1%).

The proposed cancellation of SUGs for graduate students would affect every program in the University; some might be dramatically affected. There is no college or program where graduate students do not receive SUGs. The following numbers speak to the importance of the SUG program in sustaining graduate education at the University: in the College of Arts and Letters, 23.2% of graduate students receive SUGs; in Health and Human Services, 20.7%; in Sciences, 16.3%; in Education, 15.6%; in Professional Studies and Fine Arts, 11.1%; in Business Administration, 8.4; and in Engineering, 4.4%. In many departments, especially in the college of Arts and Letters, significant percentages of graduate students rely on SUGS: in Anthropology, 60%; in Women's Studies, 56%; in Sociology 54%; in Political Science, 48%; in Philosophy and Creative Writing, 47%.

Cancellation of SUGs for graduate students would also impact diversity. In 2011/12, 45.1% of SUG recipients were students of color, most of them Hispanic (26.1%). The proportion of graduate SUG awardees of color has increased from 39.0% in Fall 2008 to 43.3% in Fall 2011. Graduate student SUGs also appear to positively influence continuation and graduation rates. Comparison of one-year continuation rates for SUG Awardees with other graduate students (non-awardees) indicates that SUG Awardees have a higher (84.4%) one-year graduation rate than non-awardees (76.9%), a higher 2-year graduation rate (44.5%) compared to non-awardees (36.3%), a higher 3-year graduation rate (65.5% and 61.2 for the SUG awardees and non-awardees, respectively).

The changing workforce increasingly demands graduates with skills and education beyond the bachelor's degree; post-bachelor's education is no longer a luxury, often not even an option, but a necessity. It thus deserves state support along with undergraduate education. All graduate SUGs

recipients are, by definition, California residents and all have demonstrated financial need and lack other support. The cancellation of graduate SUGs would thus not only have a potentially dramatic effect across a wide range of programs, especially in the Humanities and Liberal Arts, but also impact CSU's ability to meet California's needs for a highly qualified and educated workforce and citizenry.

MSP Adopted Senate resolution (removing the clause recommending the discontinuation of State University Grants for graduate students from the pending ASCSU Resolution AS-3100-12/FGA). The vote included five abstentions.