

Resolution #65-02

**The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Pennsylvania State University**



of the 65th Assembly
February 24, 2016

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Support and Endorsement of the We Are...Worth Funding Campaign

(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

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3 Last year, GPSA endorsed a resolution to develop a cohesive legislative platform to benefit Penn
4 State students. Specifically, its charge was to:

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6 *Develop a long term strategic plan for student legislative outreach at Penn State including*
7 *determining the housing and structure for a formalized and institutionalized student-led entity*
8 *within the University.*

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10 As it stands, all legislative outreach efforts are decentralized, with each student government
11 conducting its own efforts. In the past, the three student governments have partnered with the
12 Alumni Association and Grassroots Network for its key lobbying day -- Capital Day -- where
13 Penn State students travel to Harrisburg to advocate for higher appropriations. However, the lack
14 of a full-year commitment towards legislative outreach is a major problem, as student
15 governments must compete with paid full-year lobbyists of other major entities who also desire
16 funding. The advocacy was also mostly focused on lowering undergraduate tuition without
17 adequate specificity or attention to state funding to directly benefit graduate students.

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19 GPSA helped form a Legislative Outreach committee to discuss effective advocacy tools and
20 practices that may be adopted. Among the benchmarked student governments, the Commission
21 endorsed the University of Texas' "Invest in Texas" campaign, an initiative led by the student
22 governments of the University of Texas. The Invest in Texas campaign sets up active meetings
23 with legislators and has made a large impact in the state government. The student governments at
24 Penn State desire to pursue a similar model.

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Recommended Course of Action:

The Graduate and Professional Student Association, on behalf of the graduate and professional student body, hereby establishes and endorses the “We Are... Worth Funding” Campaign. The campaign shall be a joint initiative with the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments and the University Park Undergraduate Association. The purpose of the campaign shall be to advocate for and promote the state and federal legislative agenda of the united student body of the Pennsylvania State University. The goals of the Campaign shall be to:

1. Increase the effectiveness of Capital Day
2. Strengthen relationships with legislators and alumni alike
3. Add other organizations, outside of student governments, to the campaign for higher education
4. Maintain a year-round campaign to pressure legislators to act on higher education
5. Raise money to help mobilize students more effectively
6. Take part in campaigning beyond Capital Day, such as letter-writing campaigns and phone banking
7. Better educate students on relevant legislation occurring in Harrisburg
8. Develop better training for students attend events or participating in campaigning
9. Maintain a Penn State Student Platform that highlights the legislative priorities of students beyond higher appropriations, with approval by each student government
10. Promote higher education as a priority of the Pennsylvania State Government

The Campaign shall promote this effort year-round and shall be overseen by three Executive Directors from each student government that will be appointed by their respective Presidents through appropriate means.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Horne
President

President _____ Affirm Veto