



1617-04  
UB Graduate Student Association  
310 Student Union  
Buffalo, NY 14260

**RESOLUTION 1617-04**

**TO: Members of the Senate**

**FROM: Tanja Aho, GSA President, and Tianle Ma, Computer Science**

**DATE: 4 April 2017**

**SUBJECT: University at Buffalo Support for Affordable On-Campus Housing for Graduate Students**

WHEREAS the University at Buffalo (UB) Graduate Student Association (GSA) Senate may enact resolutions concerning issues of importance to the graduate student body as regards issues of academic policy, student rights, and student welfare;

WHEREAS UB currently has a total enrollment of 29,806 students, 7,291 of which are graduate students;

WHEREAS less than 10% of graduate students currently live on-campus, and one of the barriers for graduate students to live on-campus being the high housing rates;

WHEREAS graduate student employees such as teaching assistants and research assistants who work 20 hours per week get paid as little as \$14,000 per year;

WHEREAS nearly 2/3 of TA/RA wages would go to rent if they chose to live on campus, making on-campus housing an unviable option without additional financial support;

WHEREAS many graduate students including many TAs and RAs have voiced concerns about increasing on-campus housing rates during the past three years;

WHEREAS Flickinger Court was the most affordable option for graduate students two years ago (\$590 per month, less than \$8,000 per year including utility fees), and is now at \$9,552/ year, a 20% rate increase in three years without public hearing and student consultation;

WHEREAS Flickinger Court is the only on-campus housing option for parenting graduate students, but many cannot live there because of the increased rates;

Therefore it is:

*Resolved*, that the Graduate Student Association Senate calls on the administration to commission a report on graduate student on-campus housing issues;

*Resolved*, that the GSA encourages UB Campus Living to address the concerns about the affordability of on-campus housing for graduate students;

*Resolved*, that GSA urges UB Campus Living to inform all residents and conduct a public forum before increasing housing rates;

*Resolved*, that GSA urges UB Campus Living to provide an annual expenditure report online;

*Resolved*, that GSA urges UB Campus Living and the University administration to address the lack of adequate and affordable on-campus housing for parenting graduate students.