# Report to the Steering Committee | March 1, 2022

## Actions Taken at Recent Meetings

### February 16, 2022

#### The Council of Graduate Students held its sixth Full Council Meeting on February 16, 2022.

This meeting was primarily composed of voting on legislation. There were many resolutions to discuss and vote on, so there were no external speakers invited and no other discussion.

The Full Council passed the following legislation:

* 22-SS-25 which awarded funds to nine students for Professional Development
* 22-SS-26 which awarded funds to fourteen students for Conference Expenses
* 22-SS-27 which awarded funds six Graduate Student Organizations funds for events at a total of $6,862
* 22-SS-28 which awarded funds for 88 students to cover the unexpected cost of remote work technology purchases
* 22-SS-29 which confirmed new representatives to the Council to their assigned University Committee appointments
* 22-SS-30 which awarded funds to the University Apartment Council of Residents (UACOR) to support their events
* 22-SS-31 which awarded funds to MSU graduate students in the English Department to support inclusive and accessible technology measures for their HIVES programming
* 22-SS-32 which approved the renewal of the current tax rate for the Council
* 22-SS-33 which approved the renewal of the Council of Medical Students (COMS) and Owen Graduate Association (OGA) tax rates
* 22-SS-34 which awarded funds for the winner of the 3-minute-thesis competition in order to support their travel to the Midwest Regional competition
* 22-SS-35 which designated funds to sponsor a tax seminar for Graduate and Professional Students

**Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings**

The Council is having elections at the next upcoming meeting on March 16th, 2022. The positions up for election are President, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Vice President of External Affairs, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. Only students that are currently serving as a representative or have attended at least half of the Full Council Meetings can run for elected office.

**Council of Graduate Students**

**Michigan State University**

**Resolution:** 22-SS-25

**Title:** A Resolution to Accept Finance Committee Recommendations for Professional Development Award Funding

**Introduced by:** Finance Committee **Introduced on:** February 16, 2022

**THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:**

RECOGNIZING, It is important to provide financial support to graduate students seeking to develop skills outside of the classroom in their field of study; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, The COGS Full Council authorizes Professional Development Award funding for graduate students in accordance with COGS funding guidelines contingent upon Finance Committee recommendations; and, be it,

RESOLVED, The Finance Committee recommends funding 9 applications in the amount of $4,500.00 for Spring of 2022; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end ofthe Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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President

Recording Secretary

Award Funding.

**Introduced by:** Finance Committee **Introduced on:** February 16, 2022

##### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

RECOGNIZING, The importance of providing financial support to graduate students to present their creative and scholarly works within their field of study; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, The COGS Full Council authorizes Conference Award funding for graduate students in accordance with COGS funding guidelines contingent upon Finance Committee recommendations; and be it,

RESOLVED, The Finance Committee recommends funding for 14 applications in the amount of $4,155.00 for Spring of2022; and be it further,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary

Funding

**Introduced by:** Finance Committee **Introduced on:** February 16, 2022

###### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, The 2021-2022 budget assigns $11,000 toward event funding requests; and,

RECOG N IZING, The importance of providing financial support to graduate student organizations for events that benefit the graduate and professional student community; therefore, be it,

RESO LVED , COGS Full Council authorizes funding for registered student organization events in accordance with COGS Event Funding Guidelines contingent upon Finance Committee recommendations; and, be it,

RESOLVED, The Finance Committee recommends funding for the graduate student organizations listed below for their respective events totaling $6,862.00 for Spring of 2022:

Political Science Graduate Student Association, $800.00, and

Earth and Environmental Sciences Graduate Student Organization, $500.00, and

Iranian Students Association, $ 1 ,500.00, and

Fisheries and Wildlife Graduate Student Organization, $1,500, and Supporting Women in Geography, $1,062, and

MSU SciComm, $ 1,500 , and, be it fu rther ,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary President

**Resolution:** 22-SS-28

**Title:** A Resolution to Accept Finance Committee Recommendations for COVID-19 Remote Work Technology Support Award

**Introduced by:** Finance Committee **Introduced on:** February 16, 2022

###### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, COGS re-established the remote working technology award during the Spring 2022 semester in recognition that the continuing Covid-19 pandemic has increased financial and emotional strains for graduate and professional students; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, The COGS Full Council authorizes Working Remotely Technology Awards for graduate students in accordance with 22-SS-24 contingent upon Finance Committee recommendations; and , be it,

RESOLVED, The Full Council authorizes the Finance Committee to approve additional expenditures in accordance with 22-SS-24; and, be it further;

RESOLVED, The Finance Committee moves $4,000 from Special Projects into the Working Remotely Technology Awards fund, for a total amount of funding of

$8,000; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, The Finance Committee recommends funding 88 applications in the amount of $8,000.00 for Spring 2022; and, be it furthe r,

RESOLVED, the Working Remotely Technology Awards fund is exhausted, and is closed following the February award cycle; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary

President

**Resolution:** 22-SS-29

**Title:** A Resolution to Approve the 2021-2022 Committee Appointment Recommendations

**Introduced by:** VPIA Stokes Introduced on: February 16, 2021

###### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, All COGS Full Council Representatives are required to serve on at least one COGS or University committee (COGS Bylaws Section 4.3); and,

WHEREAS, Committee Representatives nominated by the Vice President for Internal Affairs require Full Council Approval (COGS Bylaws Section 8.1.2-8.1.3); and,

RECOGNIZING, Committee Representatives are nominated throughout the academic year; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, The COGS Full Council approves the current list of graduate students named in the attached document entitled "2021-2022 Committee Appointment Recommendations," last edited on February 16, 2022; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary *f* President

**Resolution:** 22-SS-30

**Title:** A Resolution to Support UACOR Events

**Introduced by:** Treasurer Ward **Introduced on:** February 16, 2022

###### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, MSU graduate students and professional students are not well represented by RHA; and,

WHEREAS, the University Apartment Council of Residents (UACOR) is a governance body mainly representing the interests of graduate students, professional students, and their dependents at 1855 Place, University Apartments, and Spartan Village; and,

WHEREAS, The purpose of this council is to improve the quality of life within the University Apartment Community; and,

WHEREAS, UACOR will hold events at their three resident communities through Apri I 2022; and,

RECOGNIZING, COGS is committed to supporting events that promote the representation of graduate and professional students and the well-being of graduate and professional students; and, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, COGS will sponsor the Spring 2022 AUCOR Programming, up to $2,500; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary President

**Resolution:** 22-SS-3 I

**Title:** A Resolution to Sponsor the Spring 2022 HIVES Programming

**Introduced by:** Treasurer Ward **Introduced on:** February 16, 2022

##### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, MSU graduate students and faculty in the English Department are organizing the 2022 HIVES Programming Series; and,

WHEREAS, HIVES is a research workshop focused on disability and animal studies in popular culture that has partners across the state of Michigan and the country; and,

WHEREAS, The HIVES Programming Series in Spring 2022 will feature three keynote speakers: Isaiah Rivera , Thiahera Nurse, and Alexandra Moffett-Bateau in March; three keynote speakers: Jerome Elli s, Jonah Mixon-Webster and Layli Long Soldier in April in partnership with RCAH; and a writing workshop for students with Kadijah Queen; and,

WHEREAS , In order to promote an inclusive environment, HIVES plans to include CART and ASL accessibility measures for the keynote talks and workshops in March and April; and,

WHEREAS, These events wil I be open to all graduate and professional students at MSU; and,

RECOGNIZING, COGS is committed to supporting initiatives that promote a more inclusive environment for graduate and professional students; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, COGS will fund the CART and ASL services for the Spring 2022 HIVES Programming Series, up to $1 , 800 ; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary ***0***

President

**Title:** A Resolution to Renew COGS Taxes

**Introduced by:** President Hugentobler **Introduced on:** February 16, 2022

###### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 6.1, of the Constitution ofthe Council of Graduate Students specifies that Graduate and Professional Students, of an amount specified by a referendum, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Graduate and Professional Students voting; and,

WHEREAS, the referendum of tax collection shall occur every three years to authorize COGS authority for the collection of taxes, the previous referendum being in 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the continued operation and services of COGS for graduate and professional students relies on taxes assessed on graduate and professional students; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan State University, by referendum of graduate and professional students, has authorized the collection of taxes for the operating expenses of COGS; and, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the COGS Full Council agrees to allow a constitutional referendum of all graduate and professional students; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that the COGS Full Council agrees to a continued tax collection rate as voted in the 2019 Referendum for tax collection, $11 for the Fall Semester, $ I I for the Spring Semester, and $5 for the Summer Semester; and, be it further;

RESOLVED, that this resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary President

**Title:** A Resolution to Allow COMS and OGA Referendum for Tax Collection

**Introduced by:** President Hugentobler **Introduced on:** February 1 6, 2022

###### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, the Council of Medical Students (COMS) and the Owen Graduate Student Association (OGA) are currently the additional tax collecting graduate and professional student groups;

WHEREAS, the continued collection of taxes by these organizations shall require referendum;

WHEREAS, the current referendum voting period for COGS and ASMSU shall be the first week of April;

RESOLVED, that the COGS Full Council agrees to allow a constitutional referendum for COMS and OGA to be placed on the COGS referendum bat lot; and be it,

RESOLVED, that the COGS Full Council agrees to allow the vote of these organizations, by their requisite stakeholders simultaneously during the COGS tax collection vote; and, be it further;

RESOLVED, that this resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary *(7* President

**Resolution:** 22-SS-34

**Title:** A Resolution in Support of Registration to the Three Minute Thesis (3MT)

**Introduced by:** Recording Secretary Meiring **Introduced on:** February 16 , 2022

###### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHERAS, The 2022 Graduate Academic Conference (GAC), taking place on February 19, is an opportunity for MSU graduate/professional students to develop presentation skills and showcase their research; and,

WHEREAS, The graduate /profess iona l student who earns first place in the Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT) at the GAC has also earned a place to compete in the 2022 Midwestern Association of Graduate Scho ols ' (MAGS) 3MT Competitio n; and,

WHEREAS, The 2022 MAGS Meeting will be held from April 6-8th; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That COGS will support the winner ofMSU's 3MT Competition by providing funds up to $300.00 to cover the individual's registration, provided that the student turns in receipts of those charges; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary *(/* President

**Resolution:** 22-SS-35

**Title:** A Resolution to Sponsor a Graduate and Professional Tax Return Webinar for 40 Graduate and Professional Students in Spring Semester of 2022

**Introduced by:** VPEA Haselby **Introduced on:** February 16, 2022

###### THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, Graduate and professional students face many special income tax related situations related to their study and employment; and,

WHEREAS, Emily Roberts, financial consultant and educator has a proven track record of providing useful and timely income tax and financial advice specifically for graduate and professional students at MSU through a financial webinar at a cost of $20 per attendee titled, *"How to Complete Your Grad Student Tax Return (and Understand It, Too!)";* and

RECOGNIZING, that financial certainty and security is an important contributing factor to well being and academic success; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, the COGS Full Council agrees to provide up to 40 participants at a cost of no more $800, to be invoiced to the COGS and paid per attendee on a first come first serve basis to Emily Roberts no later than April, 18, 2022; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that this resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

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Recording Secretary President

*February 8, 2022*

* Professor Horng-Shiuann Wu elected as Vice Chair of UCFA
* Updates on numerous past issues.

*February 22, 2022*

* Discussions with T. Jeitschko, Senior Associate Provost concerning salary and benefit restoration potential
* Updates on numerous past issues.

**Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings**

Request for Pandemic-Related Financial Information – Budget Subcommittee working with Assoc. Provost Jeitschko.

Awarding of Emeritus Status Policy Revision – Personnel Subcommittee working with Assoc. Provost Lang and K. Yermak

*February 23, 2022*

* The Committee continued discussion of incorporating DEI information in RPT and annual evaluation packets. Since our last meeting, several committee members were able to introduce the topic at departmental or college meetings. We will continue working on getting feedback to help create some exemplars for how faculty can incorporate DEI information in their RPT packets including their Reflective Essays.
* The material provided by the Council of Diversity Deans has led to confusion as to whether DEI is potentially being considered as a fourth pillar of RPT rather then being interwoven within the current three pillars of research, teaching, and service.
* The committee also reviewed and approved a request for a 2-year extension of the tenure clock for a faculty member.

**Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings**

At their next meeting, the committee will discuss concerns raised by Engineering faculty regarding whether DEI may be reviewed as a separate entity with an RPT process.

At their next meeting, the committee will also discuss the composition of department RPT committees. An issue that has been raised is whether administrators with a faculty appointment should be included as members of a department RPT committee.

We expect to review requests for extension of the tenure clock at future meetings.

**Requested Support from the Steering Committee and/or the Office of Academic Governance**

No requests at this time.

**Other**

None.



**Report to the Steering Committee | February 21, 2022**

**Actions Taken at Recent Meetings**

UCGS held its fifth meeting of the 2021–2022 Academic Year on:

**February 21, 2022**

* Committee endorsed the proposal to modify graduate education time limits in academic programs
* Discussion regarding online teaching during inclement weather and if the university goes to modified operations. Points and issues brought up were shared with Gina Leinninger, UCUE Chair, once discussed at UCUE final points and recommendations will be sent on to Andrew Connor.
* Approved 7 program requirement change requests, 5 new graduate certificates and 2 new masters programs.

**Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings**

* Review of the RIO to be completed and report to be finalized
* Recommendations from task force regarding potential changes for the Graduate Academic Dishonesty Policies
* Recommendations from Sub Committee on Graduate Instruction, Employment &

Mentoring subcommittee regarding pay for TE’s and GA’s



**Report to the Steering Committee | March 1, 2022**

**Actions Taken at Recent Meetings**

**The University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE)** met on January 6 and January 13, 2022. During these meetings they took the following actions on curricular requests:

#### Approved request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Agricultural Technology Certificate in Applied Horse Science

* Approved request to Establish an Agricultural Technology Certificate in Urban Forest Management in the Institute of Agricultural Technology
* Approved request for a New Agricultural Technology Certificate in Forest Technology
* Approved request to Change the Graduation Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in the Eli Broad College of Business

**Anticipated Items at Upcoming Meetings**

The UCUE will consider the curriculum requests at their next meeting, to be determined.