

1 **Resolution # 1409B**

2 **Resolution to Reinstate the Graduate Assembly Workgroup for Graduate**
3 **Professional Development and Directed Action to Establish a Committee for**
4 **Graduate Professional Development**

5
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8 WHEREAS in September of 2013, the Graduate Assembly (the “GA”) resolved to create the
9 Graduate Assembly Workgroup to Advocate for the Advancement of Professional
10 Development at Berkeley (the “Workgroup”); and

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12 WHEREAS in the same month, the GA, in conjunction with the Graduate Division, charged
13 the Task Force on Graduate Student and Postdoc Professional Development (the
14 “Task Force”) to report on the current state of professional development at the
15 University of California, Berkeley (the “University”) and generate a list of
16 recommendations for “improving opportunities for graduate students and postdocs
17 to gain skills and knowledge related to securing meaningful careers within and
18 outside of the academy”¹; and

19
20 WHEREAS in October of 2013, the GA voted to make professional development an official
21 advocacy agenda item for the Executive Board in the 2013–2014 academic year;
22 and

23
24 WHEREAS in the same month, the GA and the Workgroup applied for and received a
25 Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Student Services and Fees (“CACSSF”)
26 grant for \$80,000 to create a professional development website and hire
27 consultancy firm Emergent Solutions to assess next steps for graduate
28 professional development beyond the scope of the Task Force; and

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30 WHEREAS in February of 2014, the Executive Board of the GA and members of the
31 Workgroup met with University President Janet Napolitano and Chancellor
32 Nicholas Dirks to outline the current state of professional development at the
33 University; and

¹ “Report of the Task Force on Graduate Student and Postdoc Professional Development.” 2014, at 1. <https://ga.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/delegates/2014-04-03/Professional%20Development%20Task%20Force%20Report.pdf> (accessed: 25 Aug 2014).



34
35 WHEREAS in March of 2014, the Task Force released a report (the “Task Force Report”) of
36 its findings that: (1) professional development has six core components,
37 including, *inter alia*, communication, leadership, and career development skills;
38 (2) many graduate and postdoctoral students pursue careers outside of the
39 academy; (3) employers and former PhD students alike stress the development of
40 communication and leadership skills to be competitive in non-academic markets;
41 (4) the current support system for graduate students and postdoctoral students is
42 fragmented and inefficient; and (5) departments do not have faculty who
43 specialize in graduate student and postdoctoral career development; and
44
45 WHEREAS the Task Force report’s recommendations for improvement included, *inter alia*,
46 providing training for students in the six identified core components; unifying
47 service provision for graduate students and postdocs under the umbrella of a
48 Professional Development Center (the “Center”); and concluding that “[a]n
49 Advisory Committee for Graduate Student and Postdoc Professional Development
50 should be formed as a standing subcommittee of the Graduate Council of the
51 Academic Senate; an equivalent committee or workgroup should be formed
52 jointly between the Graduate Assembly and the Berkeley Postdoctoral
53 Association”² in order to facilitate these recommendations; and
54
55 WHEREAS in April of 2014, the Graduate Division announced the creation of “dedicated
56 space for hosting services and events”³ for professional development purposes in
57 Sproul Hall pursuant to the recommendations of the Task Force Report; and
58
59 WHEREAS in May of 2014, the Workgroup, in cooperation with Emergent Solutions,
60 presented to the Graduate Division and the Chancellor the UC Berkeley Graduate
61 and Postdoc Professional Development Strategy Final Report (the “Workgroup
62 Report”) which identified many of the same findings and recommendations,
63 including the establishment of “an Advisory Committee co-chaired by the
64 Graduate Division and the Graduate Assembly” that will “[b]uild an organizing
65 framework, metrics, web resources, and funding processes” for the Center⁴; and
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² *Ibid.*, at 3.

³ *Ibid.*, at 15.

⁴ “UC Berkeley Graduate and Postdoc Professional Development Strategy.” 2014, at 7 (on file with resolution authors).





The Graduate Assembly

UC BERKELEY'S GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- 67 WHEREAS the above timeline demonstrates a commitment on behalf of the University, the
68 Graduate Division, and the GA to the advancement of professional development
69 for graduate students and postdocs; and
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- 71 WHEREAS the continued input of the graduate student body has been recommended by both
72 the Task Force Report and the Workgroup Report; and
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- 74 WHEREAS a Workgroup must be established each academic year, but establishment of a GA
75 Project or standing GA Committee can only occur via an official amendment to
76 the GA Bylaws; therefore let it be
77
- 78 RESOLVED that the Workgroup be reinstated for the 2014–2015 academic year or until such
79 time as a new GA Project, GA Committee, or Campus Committee be formed; and
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- 81 RESOLVED that the Workgroup be comprised of no fewer than four (4) delegates, preferably
82 distributed across engineering and sciences, social sciences, humanities, and
83 professional programs; the GA President and Campus Affairs Vice President; and
84 up to four (4) additional members from the GA or the Graduate Student Body,
85 preferably including student members of the Task Force, with total membership
86 not to exceed ten (10) students; and
87
- 88 RESOLVED that the Workgroup be granted a budget of three hundred dollars (\$300) per
89 semester for meeting materials, including food, supplies, etc., from the GA's
90 contingency fund, with unused funds returning to contingency at the conclusion of
91 each semester; and
92
- 93 RESOLVED that the Campus Affairs Vice President (the "CAVP") discuss, in conjunction
94 with the appropriate representative of the Graduate Division, the Workgroup, and
95 the Internal Vice President (the "IVP"), establishing a permanent Campus
96 Committee for Graduate Professional Development to oversee the implementation
97 of the recommendations of the Task Force Report and the Workgroup Report
98 beyond the scope of this Workgroup; and finally
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- 100 RESOLVED that the CAVP and the IVP present to the Workgroup a timeline for the creation
101 of said Campus Committee or, should such a Committee be untenable, the
102 creation of a GA Project or GA Committee to further advance the graduate
103 student body's interest in coordinated, campus-wide professional development.

