

Northeastern University

Student Government Association Senate Legislation

Student Government Association

October 13, 2005

SGA Resolution: Creation of Undergraduate Research Program

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

Recommended Citation

Student Government Association, Northeastern University, "SGA Resolution: Creation of Undergraduate Research Program" (2005). Student Government Association Senate Legislation. Paper 165. http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20004556

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SR-F-05-101

A SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A UNIVERSITY-WIDE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM

WHEREAS,

A stated mission of Northeastern University is to "provide individuals with the opportunity for upward mobility through excellence in education" and to "challenge individuals to perform to the limits of their intellectual capacity and to assist them in doing so," with co-operative education and experiential learning as the "keystones" of this excellence; AND

WHEREAS,

Undergraduate research involves "inquiry or investigation that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline" that is "relevant, meaningful, and engaging for the student;" AND

WHEREAS,

Studies have shown that students who participate in undergraduate research on average have higher QPAs and are more likely to seek the highest degrees in their respective fields, to be accepted to first-tier graduate schools, to cite undergraduate research as a primary factor in their professional success, and to name it one of the most rewarding intellectual endeavors of their undergraduate careers;² **AND**

WHEREAS,

The University strives to become a top national research university; AND

WHEREAS,

U.S. News and World Report in 2003 placed the University in the 41st percentile for retention and graduation rates, which account for 25% of a university's overall score; **AND**

WHEREAS,

The implementation of undergraduate research programs has improved retention rates and student-faculty synergy at universities nationwide; AND

WHEREAS,

The Student Government Association has received a substantial response from students interested in undergraduate research in a breadth of academic disciplines; **AND**

WHEREAS,

Such a demand is not being adequately met by the current establishment of faculty-undergraduate research collaborations; **AND**

WHEREAS,

A university-wide undergraduate research program would provide a centralized network of support staff, improve the grant-worthiness of the University's undergraduate research initiative, and increase awareness of and participation in undergraduate research by both students and faculty; **AND**

WHEREAS,

No university-wide program exists to coordinate and record participation in undergraduate research opportunities for students and faculty; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED,

That the University establish an institution-wide program for undergraduate research, under the auspices of the Office of the Provost, to promote,

coordinate, enhance, fund, diversify, and track participation in undergraduate research, as well as assist and communicate with existing college-based undergraduate research programs; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED,

That the University Registrar establish a mechanism to record students' participation in undergraduate research for tracking purposes and official transcripts, and devise a system to apply this mechanism retroactively for all current undergraduate students upon their request; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED,

That the University implement a regularly convening advisory board for the undergraduate research program, chaired by the program director, with appropriate representation including, but not limited to, each college, the Student Government Association, and the Office of the Provost; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED,

That the University encourage an enthusiasm for undergraduate research in new faculty candidates; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED,

That the University use the undergraduate research program to seek external funding for faculty and students who participate in undergraduate research, to strongly urge faculty to include monies for undergraduate researchers in all new grant applications, and to appropriately increase the number of Provost Grants awarded for undergraduate research projects each year.

Submitted with the unanimous support of the Academic Affairs Committee,

Mariko L. Howe

Senator

College of Arts & Sciences

William //Durkin

Senator

College of Arts & Sciences

Michael T. DeRamo

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Student Government Association

Ashley R. Adams

President

Student Government Association

Attest:

Adriana M. Campos

Vice President for Administration

and Public Relations

Student Government Association

Date: Dotobel 13,2005

YEA: ५٦

NAY: 📐

ABSTAIN: 📎

¹Wenzel, T. (1997). Council on Undergraduate Research Quarterly, 17, 163.

²Multiple sources, including: Bauer, K., & Bennett, J. (2003). *The Journal of Higher Education*, 74(2), 210-330; Hartmann, D. (1990). *The American Sociologist*, 21(2), 179-188; Kuh, G & Hu, S. (2001). *The Journal of Higher Education*, 72(1), 1-28; Lopatto, D. (2004). *PKAL*. 4, 4; Nagda, B., et al. (1998). *The Review of Higher Education*, 22.1, 55-72.



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TO:

Ashley Adams, President, SGA

FROM:

Richard M. Freeland, President

SUBJECT:

Action on SGA Legislation

DATE:

October 28, 2005

SR-F-05-101: A SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A UNIVERSITY-WIDE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM

I commend the SGA for bringing forward this very important issue. As a student centered research university it is paramount that our undergraduate students have opportunities to apply what they learn in the classroom to research endeavors. I am a supporter of an enhanced undergraduate research program, as is Provost Ahmed Abdelal. I will call on Provost Abdelal to work with you to coordinate and expand the opportunities for robust collaboration between our undergraduate students and our expert faculty, adding further value to our undergraduate students' academic experiences at Northeastern.

cc:

E. Edward Klotzbier, Vice President for Student Affairs

Ahmed Abdelal, Provost Sri Sridhar, Vice Provost Mal Hill, Vice Provost