To: The General Assembly of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Author(s): Ludwig Zhao, Steven Neuhaus, Emily Getzen, Jaydee Edwards, Kyle Coleman
Sponsor: GAPSA Research Council & GAPSA IDEAL Council
RE: First-year Doctoral Student Relocation Funds

ABSTRACT:
The University shall provide first-year doctoral students with supplementary funds to facilitate moving to the Philadelphia area.

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WHEREAS, The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) is charged with representing all graduate and professional students enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Relocation to the Philadelphia area requires substantial funds: upfront rent payment, security deposit, and moving-related expenses; and

WHEREAS, Doctoral students often lack sufficient funds to relocate prior to matriculation; and

WHEREAS, Doctoral students do not receive their first stipend payments before moving, thus making it impossible to apply stipends to cover relocation; and

WHEREAS, GAPSA is an inclusive organization that derives strength from the diversity of its members; and

WHEREAS, The University of Pennsylvania affirms that the University benefits greatly from the rich diversity of all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; and

WHEREAS, Lack of funds to cover relocation costs serves as an additional barrier to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly under-represented minorities; and

WHEREAS, Certain Schools and departments have already recognized the necessity of such funds, and provided them to their students; now, therefore; be it

RESOLVED, The University shall provide first-year doctoral students with $3,500 at least two months prior to matriculation to help offset the cost of relocation.

[END]

PASSED: The IDEAL Council unanimously voted to approve the Resolution on the 29th of September, 2021.
The Research Council unanimously voted to approve the Resolution on the 6th of October 6, 2021.