



**Resolution on INCREASING THE NUMBER OF GRADUATE &
PROFESSIONAL YOUNG TRUSTEES ON THE DUKE
UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(Resolution 2014-03)**

Graduate and Professional Student Council, General Assembly

Whereas the Board of Trustees represents Duke University by acting as its primary trustee in the effective usage of university funds, policies, and development;

Whereas the Graduate and Professional student community comprises approximately 8,400 (~57%) students and the Undergraduate student community comprises approximately 6,500 (~43%) students;

Whereas the Graduate and Professional alumni base is approximately equal to the Undergraduate alumni base;

Whereas representation on the Board of Trustees ought to represent a value-weighted average of the current student body and the alumni base, and each student community elects a Young Trustee to serve in this capacity;

Whereas the Graduate and Professional student community currently only elects one person per year, who serves two years total (first as an “observer” and second as a voting member of the Board of Trustees); thus the total representation on the Board of Trustees from the Graduate and Professional student community is two: one Young Trustee who observes and one who votes;

Whereas the Undergraduate student community currently elects one person per year, who serves three years total; thus the total representation on the Board of Trustees from the Undergraduate student community is three: one Young Trustee who observes and two who vote;

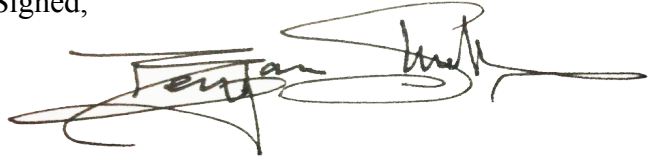
Whereas this division effectively empowers the Undergraduate community to have twice as many votes as the Graduate and Professional students; and

Whereas votes of the Board of Trustees often hinge not just on the voting members, but the opinions of the observing members, therefore be it:

Resolved, that GPSC asks that the Board of Trustees:

1. Increase the total representation of Graduate and Professional Student Young Trustees to three; the terms of which will include two (2) years as observer and one (1) year as a voting member;
2. Permit the Graduate and Professional Student Young Trustee's current voting member of the Board of Trustees to continue in his/her duty as a voting member in the next academic year;
3. Permit the Graduate and Professional Student Young Trustee's current observing member of the Board of Trustees to continue in his/her duty as an observing member in the next academic year followed by a third year as a voting member; and
4. Permit the Graduate and Professional Student Council to elect future Young Trustees to serve pursuant to line one (1).

Signed,



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Second: Scott Winton

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Effective Date: November 18, 2014



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summary:

The Graduate and Professional Student Council (“GPSC”) has enacted and approved a resolution urging the Duke University Board of Trustees to increase the number of Graduate & Professional Young Trustees from two to three. The model that the resolution advocates for is one where our Young Trustees would serve a three-year term in which the first two years, the Young Trustee would act as an observer and in the third year would be a full voting Trustee. This is similar to the model the undergraduate students follow, where their Young Trustees serve one year as an observing member and two years as a full voting member. Currently Graduate & Professional students serve a two-year term, the first of which is as an observer and the second is as a voting Trustee.

GPSC had previously requested a third trustee but was denied by the Board of Trustees. Limited records seem to indicate that the Board of Trustees was concerned about the logistical difficulties of increasing the total number of full Trustees (both student and non-student) from 36 to 37, or alternatively, diluting non-student Trustees from 33 to 32. This solution maximizes the advocacy position of Graduate and Professional students among the Trustees as at a time when the alumni base among graduate students is roughly equal to the alumni of undergraduate students, and when the total graduate and professional students represent about 57% of current total student enrollment.

Press Quotes:

Ben Shellborn, GPSC President, JD/MBA Candidate: “One of the primary goals that GPSC is expressing is the desire here to be heard. This compromise achieves that end on both the committee level as well as the full board.”

Shannon O’Connor, Observing Graduate & Professional Young Trustee, MD/PhD, Department of Biomedical Engineering: “Duke University thrives on the research, knowledge, and connections of its faculty and students. With three years to serve the Duke community, Young Trustees would have more time to forge bonds with the Trustees and with the world around Duke, allowing them to represent Duke University more effectively. I am excited and gratified with the news that GPSC wants Kate Duch and me to serve for an additional year. GPSC remains close to my heart after my service there in the past, and I congratulate the Council on its 2nd resolution of the semester!”

Contacts:

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Kate Duch, Graduate & Professional Trustee (katherine.duch@duke.edu)

Attachments: (1)

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