A resolution of the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) supporting the strengthening and development of support structures for international students at Duke University

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Whereas, international students experience difficulties on a regular basis transitioning and acclimatizing to a new culture, and, oftentimes, to a new language.

Whereas, the International Friends Program and other such programs which encourage cultural exchange exist within the IHouse, but are lacking in domestic student participation.

Recognizing, international students have formal classes to adapt to the new language, but none to adapt to a new culture.

Recognizing, cultural exchange between international and domestic students is a key factor in building an inclusive and equitable community.

Recognizing, all students enrolled in the graduate school undergo a 4+ hour RCR training to understand responsible and ethical research conduct.

Recognizing, the majority of international students in the US, and at Duke, are at the graduate level, and, in The Graduate School alone, 45.5% of students are international students.¹

Now, therefore be it resolved by the GPSG that the graduate and professional student body of Duke University:

Calls for the strengthening and development of support structures for international students.

Calls for the hiring of more staff for the IHouse.

Calls for the creation of a senior level administrative position to support international students.

Calls for graduate student representation on all IHouse hiring committees.

Calls for the inclusion of IHouse programming during general graduate student orientation and departmental orientations.

Calls for discussion of IHouse programs and the importance of cultural exchange during RCR training.

Calls for the expansion of IHouse’s International Friends Program, using the undergraduate one-on-one mentoring program, Blue Devil Buddies, as an example of how to connect domestic and international students.
Calls for a joint student and administrative conference committee to analyze how best to advertise IHouse programs, including the International Friends Program, to the entire graduate and professional student population.

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