

Bill to enact a 50K Off-Campus Graduate Student Caltrain Program with funds from the Graduate Buffer Fund

GSC-2014-19

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Action Requested: $\frac{2}{3}$ approval by the Graduate Student Council (GSC clauses) and $\frac{2}{3}$ approval by the Undergraduate Senate (UGS clauses)

WHEREAS the Graduate buffer fund is currently at \$539,827.58 (as of 5/6/2014); and

WHEREAS the Graduate buffer fund had been growing at a rate of approximately \$47,739.52 a year on average for the previous five years, while for fiscal year 2013 it increased by more than \$90K, or around 20%;; and

WHEREAS the Buffer fund is mainly comprised of leftover from surcharges and ideally the GSC wants to keep it in a neutral position; and

WHEREAS the GSC wishes to represent the interest of all graduate students, whereby 3,576 out of 8897, or more than 40% of them, currently live off-campus (as of 5/6/2014); and

WHEREAS the off-campus graduate students have been traditionally least served by GSC-sponsored programming events but could benefit the most from stronger connection to the campus through transit connections such as Caltrain Go Pass; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Bylaws, Article VI §7.A.17 states:

The Graduate Buffer Fund and Undergraduate Buffer Fund shall be administered by the relevant legislative bodies in a manner specified in their by-laws. The Graduate Special Distribution Buffer Account shall be administered by both the Undergraduate Senate, the GSC, and the ASSU Financial Manager as specified in the Bill 'To Implement the Partitioning of the Association Buffer Fund into the Undergraduate Buffer Fund and the Graduate Buffer Fund'. Funds from the Undergraduate Buffer Fund, Graduate Buffer Fund, and Graduate Special Distribution Buffer Account may not be used for any purpose unrelated to special fees without $\frac{2}{3}$ majority approval from both legislative bodies.

and, WHEREAS, this use of the Graduate Buffer Fund is unrelated to Special Fees, and may therefore may be approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority approval from both legislative bodies;

and

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL:

THAT: \$112,500 be allocated from the Graduate Buffer Fund to support the Caltrain Initiative from Sept 2014 to Dec 2016 in collaboration with the office of VPGE; and

THAT: An additional \$15,000 be allocated from the Graduate Buffer Fund to be used for the marketing of the program over the three years and subject to GSC administration ; and

THAT: A report detailing the progress and the financial accounting of the program be made available to the GSC every fiscal year; and

THAT: Should the pilot program conclude at any point before Dec 2016, unused money be returned to the GSC Buffer Fund prorated at \$50,000 per year;

AND THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

THAT the Graduate Student Council's allocation of \$127,500 in total from the Graduate Buffer Fund to an account holding the amount in reserve and available for the Graduate Caltrain Outreach Initiative.