

University of Connecticut Graduate Student Senate
2016 - 2017

International Student Visa Compliance Fee Resolution

The Administration of the University of Connecticut approved on December 7th, 2016, a set of fee adjustments for the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18). Among the approved fees, there is the "Visa Compliance Fee", a \$700/year fee that applies specifically to international students who are under a F-1 or J-1 visa. This fee will be in effect in Fall 2017 since FY18 runs from October 1st, 2017, until June 30th, 2018.

However, UConn Administration failed to adequately consult UConn's international student community about this targeted fee, whose insights and contributions would have been essential to ensure that the fee meets its purpose and the needs of the international community. Due to the lack of transparency and the loosely-defined and broad remit of the fee, the Graduate Student Senate proceeds as follows:

Sponsors:

Thomas Briggs, Senator-at-large, Ph.D. Candidate Political Science

Anthony Patelunas, President, Ph.D. Candidate Molecular and Cell Biology

WHEREAS, UConn's peer and aspirant institution charge less than the implemented \$350 per semester at UConn; AND

WHEREAS, the money generated from the Visa Compliance Fee has not been ring-fenced only for visa compliance costs, and can be used to fund organizations and programs that apply to all students, or, to fund the needs of only specific groups of international students; AND

WHEREAS, more than 25% of the graduate student population attends UConn on an F1 or J1 visa; AND

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate represents the interests of all graduate students; AND

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate recognises that the whole of UConn benefits from the presence of a globally diverse student body, and that international students are an integral part of the entire UConn community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Graduate Student Senate of the University of Connecticut urges UConn to readjust the Visa Compliance Fee in consultation with international students and wider university stakeholders, so that it is fairer and more in line with fees by peer institutions.

AND FINALLY BE IT ORDERED, the UConn Graduate Student Senate will circulate this resolution to all relevant outlets, including the University President, University Vice Presidents, and University administration/officials.



Anthony Patelunas
President



Matthew Parent
Vice President

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE GRADUATE SENATE 04/05/2017