

1 **R. 4 -- Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant Stipend Difference**

2 Whereas, the teaching assistants receive a 2.7 percent stipend increase this academic year while research  
3 assistants receive a zero percent stipend increase;

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5 Whereas, this is the first time in several decades that Cornell's mandated minimum stipend rate has varied  
6 between different types of grad students;

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8 Whereas, this decision was made by the Board of Trustees without engaged, transparent discussion with  
9 the larger body of graduate students;

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11 Whereas, the graduate student can receive a substantial pay cut when switching from Teaching  
12 Assistantship (TA) to Research Assistantship (RA); therefore,

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14 Be it resolved that, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is opposed to this difference between  
15 Research Assistantship and Teaching Assistantship stipends, as well as the possibility of increasing  
16 differences in stipends in the next few years;

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18 Be it further resolved that this change could potentially damage collaboration and the academic climate  
19 on campus;

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21 Be it further resolved that the Assembly encourage the administration to garner feedback from a wide  
22 range of graduate students in the future before making substantive changes to graduate student financial  
23 support, especially when such changes differ from established precedent;

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25 Be it further resolved that the Assembly looks forward to working with President David Skorton,  
26 President-elect Elizabeth Garrett and Dean of the Graduate School Barb Knuth to revisit the change  
27 through transparent and substantive conversation.

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29 Respectfully submitted,

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31 Catherine Kai Weng Wong  
32 Executive Vice President, GPSA  
33 Physical Sciences Voting Member

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35 Richard Warloth  
36 President, GPSA  
37 Physical Sciences Voting Member

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39 Jesse Goldberg  
40 Humanities Voting Member, GPSA

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