

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Resolution 13: Resolution Advocating for Universal TCAT Access for Cornell Graduate and Professional Students

Abstract: This resolution advocates for the inclusion of universal, unlimited TCAT (Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit) access for all Cornell graduate and professional students; calls for collaboration between the GPSA, Cornell administration, and TCAT; and outlines a commitment to student outreach and transparent implementation.

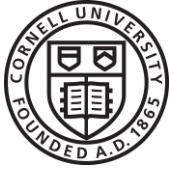
Sponsored by: Thien Nguyen, Voting Member – Arts & Humanities Representative, Organization of Cornell Planners, Women’s Planning Forum

Whereas, public transportation is a crucial service that facilitates accessibility, affordability, and sustainability for graduate and professional students, many of whom rely on TCAT for commuting to campus, housing, and essential services; and

Whereas, other peer institutions, including the University of Kansas, the University of Colorado Boulder, and the University of California, Berkeley, successfully fund student access to local transit systems through budget means, allowing for unlimited transit access at a reduced cost per student; and

Whereas, negotiating a bulk purchase agreement between Cornell and TCAT would significantly lower transportation costs per student compared to the current semester pass or per-ride costs, making public transit more affordable and equitable for all students; and

Whereas, by including universal TCAT access for all professional and graduate students throughout their entirety of enrollment, Cornell would have greater collective bargaining power and a stronger voice in negotiations with TCAT, ensuring that service levels, route planning, and scheduling better reflect the needs of the student population; and



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Whereas, universal transit access supports Cornell University's commitments to sustainability, equity, and affordability by reducing reliance on personal vehicles, alleviating parking demand, and lowering the overall carbon footprint of the student body; and

Whereas, many graduate and professional students are financially burdened by transportation costs, particularly international students, students with families, and students residing in areas with limited alternative transportation options; and

Be it therefore resolved that the Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) formally advocates for the inclusion of universal TCAT access for all graduate and professional students; and be it further

Resolved, that the GPSA calls on Cornell University administration and the TCAT Board of Directors to work collaboratively with graduate and professional students to implement this program in a financially sustainable manner; and be it further

Resolved, that the GPSA urges the university to prioritize negotiations with TCAT to establish a discounted bulk rate for graduate and professional students, similar to peer institutions, ensuring equitable and affordable transit access; and be it further

Resolved, that the GPSA commits to engaging in outreach and information sessions to ensure transparency and gather student input on the implementation of this initiative; and

Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of Cornell University, the Dean of the Graduate School, the Vice President for Student and Campus Life, the TCAT Board of Directors, and any other relevant stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,

Thien Nguyen

Voting Member – Arts & Humanities Representative