

RESOLUTION F20-01: Implementing a Medical Relief Policy for Graduate Students

Sponsors:

Stephen Breazeale, *Nursing Representative*
Carson J Bryant, *Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry Representative*
Christina Carolus, *Anthropology Representative*
Ronald Chow, *Public Health Representative*
Breeanna Elliott, *History Representative, Facilities and Healthcare Committee Chair*
Chrishan Fernando, *Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS) Representative*
Gadareth Higgs, *Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology Representative and Academic and Professional Development Chair*
Megan Kelley, *Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program Representative*
Madison Rackear, *Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS) Representative*
Nicolle Rosa-Mercado, *Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry Representative*
S. Maxwell Scalf, *Cell Biology Representative and Transit and Security Committee Chair*

Recipients:

Lynn Cooley, *Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Yale University*
Paul Genecin, *Chief Executive Officer of Yale Health*
George Longyear, *Director of Graduate and Professional Student Housing*
Scott Strobel, *Provost of Yale University*

Whereas the intended purpose of the GSAS medical leave of absence is to provide the protected ability for a student to interrupt their graduate studies should medical concerns arise and to support students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses;

Whereas the current GSAS medical leave of absence policy neglects to support low-income students, who may otherwise benefit from and/or require a period of flexibility during their studies, in taking said leave due to prospective loss of healthcare coverage, stipend income, and access to Yale facilities and Yale-affiliated graduate housing;

Whereas other GSAS policies, such as the [parental relief policy](#), demonstrate the administration's flexibility in supporting students who experience a change in life circumstances, these policy considerations do not yet extend to those graduate students who may require similar flexibility and financial support for documented medical reasons, which disproportionately impacts students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses;

Be it first resolved that the Graduate Student Assembly urges the GSAS administration to implement a medical relief policy, which offers, as a minimum, similar benefits to those of the parental relief policy. This would provide such benefits as allowing students on medical relief to maintain their

full-time student status, receive their standard financial aid stipend and health award, have all academic responsibilities altered to fit their circumstances, and have their academic clocks stopped for the duration of the term;

Be it further resolved that graduate students requesting medical relief be provided the option to enroll in the Academic Travel Rider or a similar program in case relocation is necessary;

Be it further resolved that GSAS and other university leadership will work alongside the GSA Facilities and Healthcare Committee and the GSA Steering Committee to develop this policy.