GSC Resolution to Express Solidarity with Non-Violent Protest at American Universities

Sponsor:
Summer Shafer – Co-At-Large Representative for Interdisciplinary Studies

Whereas the Graduate Student Council unequivocally supports the fundamental right of students to peaceful protest;

Whereas video evidence indicates, and the Chancellor of UC Davis confirms, that students at UC Davis were seated, silent, and at no point resisted removal violently, in action that epitomizes non-violent civil disobedience, despite being pepper-sprayed directly;

Whereas students at the University of California Berkeley were beaten and pepper-sprayed in a university-designated free speech zone;

Whereas the Graduate Student Council recognizes the continued need to protect the right of all students, regardless of their political affiliation or perspective, to exercise their right to peaceful assembly;

Whereas speaking out publicly in condemnation with other student unions can prevent future injurious incidents at American universities including our own;

Whereas Harvard has itself recently become, as it has been in the past, a site of peaceful, non-violent protest;

Be it therefore resolved the Graduate Student Council condemn the decision by UC Davis and UC Berkeley officials to authorize this use of disproportionate force against peacefully protesting students;

Be it further resolved that the Graduate Student Council condemn the pepper spraying of non-violently protesting students;

Be it further resolved that the students on the Graduate Student Council stand in solidarity with fellow students of UC Davis and UC Berkeley, and with nonviolent student protestors at Harvard;

Be it further resolved that the Graduate Student Council call for the continued support of the right of students to peaceful protest without violent response by the Harvard administration, the Harvard University Police Department, as well as student unions, university administrations and police departments across the United States.

Graduate Student Council Vote on February 1, 2012:
In Favor: 29
Opposed: 9
Abstaining: 8