



GSA Bill #30

A bill supporting the protection of academic freedom, diversity, and political speech for graduate students

1 **WHEREAS**, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Statement of Diversity and Inclusion
2 highlights the value of freedom of speech, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents Policy
3 protects the right to demonstration, and the Chancellor has a strong record of protecting students'
4 right to free speech; and,

5 **WHEREAS**, the nature of what constitutes political speech is a contested issue, not
6 amenable to simple or self-evident resolution; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, the overriding point of freedom of speech is to encourage and protect
8 argumentation, even political arguments that are offensive, and recognize that the University has
9 a responsibility to judge the speech of its students and faculty and take positions on that speech,
10 freedom of speech does not mean a refusal to make judgments; and,

11 **WHEREAS**, because of the University's commitment to academic freedom, it is a self-
12 governing body, with established channels and traditions to ensure due process and fair hearing
13 of complaints to make those very judgments; and,

14 **WHEREAS**, graduate students occupy a precarious subordinate position within the
15 University, and their rights are easily infringed.

16 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Graduate Student Assembly supports a
17 robust defense of the rights of students to many forms of political speech in the public sphere of
18 the University; and

19 **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that an explicit policy to protect these
20 rights and to recognize that political speech deemed controversial must be dealt with through the
21 appropriate channels, including participation by the student speaker, before a judgment of a
22 specific instance of speech may be reached.

Submitted by	Daniel Clausen (English)	DATE	03/06/2017
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Floor action	Adopted by voice vote	DATE	03/07/2017
Presidential Signature	(s) President Correas	DATE	03/09/2017