WHEREAS, state support is vital to the affordability of graduate and professional students’ education at the University of Nebraska; and,

WHEREAS, the 53,000 students of the University of Nebraska System, including the almost 5,000 graduate and professional students currently enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, are future leaders in academia and industry, make up an important part of Nebraska’s workforce, and contribute to the University’s vital educational mission and research innovations; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska’s annual economic impact on the state is $3.9 billion, a 6-to-1 return on every dollar the state invests; and,

WHEREAS, under the Governor’s budget proposal, the University of Nebraska’s funding for the current year would be reduced $11 million, and next year’s appropriation would be cut $23 million; and,

WHEREAS, over the biennium no other state agency received a larger dollar cut than the University of Nebraska; and,

WHEREAS, further reductions in state funding will lead to academic program cuts that would directly impact many graduate and professional students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Graduate Student Assembly ask all state representatives to send a strong message of support of Nebraska’s young people, educators, and researchers by declaring higher education a priority of the state; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, the Graduate Student Assembly, as a subsidiary branch of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, will advocate against cuts that could damage the long-term quality of the University of Nebraska and its ability to contribute to the state’s economic and civic well-being.