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### **Resolution on International Student Affairs**

WHEREAS the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (hereafter “GAPSA”) of the University of Pennsylvania (hereafter the “Penn”) represents more than 2,750 international graduate and professional students; and

WHEREAS Penn has a long-standing commitment to global engagement and to the success and promotion of all Penn students and Penn alumni, including those of international citizenship; and

RECOGNIZING that the United States of America (hereafter “U.S.”) must play a pivotal role in educating and attracting highly capable individuals from around the world, providing them with an environment to excel both academically as well as professionally; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that such actions would socially and economically benefit the United States and the rest of the world; and

RECOGNIZING that the Grassley-Sanders amendment to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R.1 Federal Stimulus Bill), which places restrictions on the hiring of H-1B visa holders from companies receiving Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) money, negatively impacts the creation of such an environment; and

RECOGNIZING that such legislation will discourage perspective international students from applying to and enrolling in U.S. schools, including Penn; and

WHEREAS current international Penn students have had job offers rescinded in response to this new legislation; and

DESIRING to positively impact the debate on immigration policy; Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that GAPSA does hereby put forward to the President of the University of Pennsylvania, the Office of Government and Community Affairs, and the Pennsylvania Congressmen the following requests:

- 1- Lobby against and seek to reverse the amendment in the Federal Stimulus package that puts restriction on companies receiving TARP funding from hiring H-1B visa holders, and other legislation like it.
- 2- Ensure that job offers made to international graduate students prior to the addition of this amendment are not rescinded.
- 3- Work toward providing greater work related options for international graduate students, including in finance related fields.



- 4- Communicate in an open and timely manner with international students about changes that negatively impact their chances of finding employment in the U.S.
- 5- Promote a culture of tolerance and understanding to enhance cooperation between individuals from different cultural backgrounds

Submitted by Omar Khan (Engineering) on behalf of the International Student Council

Adopted by the Assembly on March 25, 2009