

UNITED GOVERNMENT OF **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

July 27, 2020

The Executive Officers of CU Boulder's graduate and professional student government, the United Government of Graduate Students (UGGS), find the following:

1. The global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created massive disruptions to higher education nationwide and at CU Boulder.
2. The academic experiences of graduate and professional students is inherently different from the academic experiences of undergraduate students at CU Boulder.
3. To enable graduate and professional students to continue their academic careers in a safe and expedient manner, certain goals and principles need to be recognized and advocated for by CU Boulder shared governance stakeholders.

The Executives Officers of UGGS request that shared governance organizations recognize and commit to following and/or advocating for the following principles at CU Boulder:

1. A commitment from shared governance leadership to stress the importance of COVID-19 safety measures from national, state, local, and university experts to their respective constituencies. UGGS has received multiple complaints from graduate and professional students that faculty members are not following policies and procedures clearly articulated by the University Administration. UGGS recognizes that it is easier for a faculty member to correct their peers than it is for a graduate or professional student to correct their advisor, department chair or College Dean.
2. A commitment from the Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA) to stress the importance of following the [TA & GPTI re-entry decision tree released by the Graduate School](#). UGGS has received multiple complaints that faculty and departments are not following that guidance, placing graduate and professional students at risk of being unfairly or unsafely placed in the classroom.
3. UGGS would like shared governance stakeholders to recognize that access to on-campus resources including, but not limited to, the Libraries, on-campus lab space, and health services, is more important for graduate and professional students than undergraduate students. Additionally, graduate and professional students represent a fraction of the student population compared to undergraduate students. With this in mind, if University wide shutdown measures occur again, graduate and professional students should be allowed to continue business around campus to ensure they can

continue to progress in their degrees, as much as safely possible. UGGS requests that shared governance leadership advocate to the University administration for an intermediate step before a total shutdown that allows graduate and professional students to continue work towards their degrees.

We respectfully request shared governance organizations to review and endorse these principles.

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