Graduate Student Congress Receives $100k Budget

Lexington, Kentucky, 7/24/2019 — In a meeting on May 1st, 2019, the leadership team of the Graduate Student Congress at the University of Kentucky met with members of the University Administrative team to report on the Congress’s accomplishments during the 2018-2019 academic year. During the meeting the Congress presented its programming, advocacy, and outreach accomplishments on behalf of graduate, professional, and postdoctoral students. The Congress also showcased its efforts to impact undergraduate student success, such as through the Congress’s new undergraduate mentorship program for individuals that identify as women in partnership with the undergraduate Forté Rising Stars Club.

The Congress is excited to announce that university administration has agreed to fund, through the Graduate School, a 2019-2020 operational budget for the GSC of $100,000, with incremental increases of $50,000 over the next three years to meet the goal of fully funding the Congress’s aspirational budget.

This promise of recurring annual funding is a crucial step to help serve the needs of the post-bachelor’s degree student body at the University of Kentucky and we wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the University for its support.

The Graduate Student Congress’s mission is to unify and advocate for graduate and professional students and postdoctoral scholars at the University of Kentucky in matters affecting quality of life and to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration by promoting professional development through seminars, forums, and community enhancement. In the 2018-2019 school year, the GSC hosted four conferences, advocated for graduate student mental health, raised over $10,000 for the Graduate Student Success Fund which will provide graduate students with funding for their travel and research, and so much more.

“It is professionally affirming and deeply moving to see our efforts get noticed in this way,” said James William Lincoln, GSC’s President Emeritus. “We were also excited to be recognized by the Office of Student Organizations and Activities as the 2019 Student Organization of the Year. All of the GSC’s milestones could not have been possible without the sacrifice and dedication of so many committed graduate and professional students and postdoctoral scholars. So many people have donated their time and efforts this year to continue to make UK a place for everyone and we are humbly grateful that University leadership has chosen to invest in us as we invest ourselves into UK.”