



Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

G R A D U A T E S T U D E N T C O U N C I L

September 9th, 2013

STATEMENT FROM THE GRADUATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD AND GENERAL BODY

This statement is in response to recent changes enacted by UVa Housing & Residence Life to Graduate and Family Housing at the University.

The UVa Graduate and Family Housing Association (GFHA) is a self-governed student organization that has been responsible for advocating for residents in Graduate and Family Housing, organizing social events, and fostering a sense of community for the past 60 years. In many ways, the GFHA has served a similar function as GSAS Grad Council, but for a different graduate constituent base.

Since changes were enacted to Graduate and Family Housing (Spring 2013), **the traditional annual \$14,000 GFHA programming budget has been suspended and the GFHA Bylaws (a 64 year old document which outlines the policies for self governance, annual budgeting, and programming) are no longer being considered part of the resident lease.**

Grad Council has partnered with GFHA to discuss these changes with administrators in the office of Housing & Residence Life in the hope of resolving some of these issues. At this point in time, **we support GFHA's desire to collect mandatory annual dues (\$25.00 for families, \$15.00 for singles) from all leaseholders at the time of lease signing/renewal that will be a partial replacement for the lost budget.**

We support GFHA's plan to vote annually as a body to decide how to use the funding (i.e., social events, event advertisement, any needful creation of new positions in the council that will be funded with a small stipend), and we ask that Housing and Resident Life continue to provide procurement services. It is our desire as a Grad Council that GFHA have the self-governance and stable source of funding they have enjoyed for over 60 years returned to them. Grad Council will continue to aid the GFHA in its efforts to build a better community for its residents.