

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Label:** SGAR-61032

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**Sponsor(s):** Speaker Cockrell, Sen. Zeidat, Sen. Salcedo, Sen. Chowdhury, Sen. Luong,  
Graduate & Professional Student Association

**Committee:** Graduate & Professional Students

**Draft:** Vote

**Mandating Minimum Four-Year Consistency in Qualifying Examination  
Committees for Doctoral Programs**

**Whereas,** doctoral students are required to pass a qualifying examination (QE) before being classified as PhD candidates;

**Whereas,** students enrolled in doctoral programs must take their qualifying exams after completing the first few semesters of their program;

**Whereas,** the format of these qualifying exams varies across programs and may include written exams, oral presentations, or other assessments;

**Whereas,** the qualifying examination committee(s), typically composed of senior faculty members, is responsible for setting and conducting these exams;

**Whereas,** departments frequently change the composition of these committees by adding or removing faculty members, which leads to significant variations in the structure and nature of the exams;

**Whereas**, this inconsistency makes it challenging to maintain standardization across exams for students taking them at different times during the academic year or in subsequent years;

**Whereas**, frequent changes to examination committees create the potential for unfair practices or biases to affect students in different research groups;

**Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:**

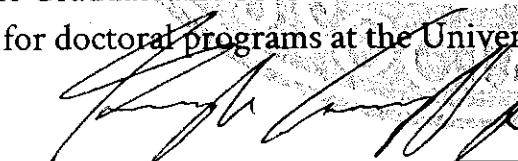
Departments shall be required to appoint a qualifying examination committee for a minimum term of four years to ensure consistency and fairness in the examination process;

**Be it further resolved**, the department chair shall be responsible for ensuring that committee members serve their full term as mandated;

**Be it further resolved**, any changes to the committee prior to the completion of the four-year term must be justified and approved by the Dean's office;

**Be it further resolved**, the decision-making process should prioritize ensuring that the qualifying examination remains fair and consistent for all students enrolled in the program during the same timeframe.

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the 61<sup>st</sup> Student Government Association affirms its position to support the Graduate and Professional Student Body in having Examination Committees for doctoral programs at the University of Houston.



Tavagoh Cockrell

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 2/28/25