

331<sup>st</sup> Student Assembly  
Senate Bill 331-007

A Bill

*To Advance the Graduate Student Experience*

**The Graduate Rebate for Autonomy in the Schools (GRAntS) Act**

An Act of the 331<sup>st</sup> Student Assembly of William & Mary,

Sponsored by Senator Morgan J. Brittain (Graduate Arts & Sciences)

Co-sponsored by Senator Brendan W. Clark (Law), Senator S. Connor Cheadle (Law)

Supported by Graduate Student Association, SA-Graduate Council Liaison Owen Williams (A&S '25), President Sydney Thayer ('24)

WHEREAS, graduate schools have, collectively, more than 2400 students, all of whom are represented under the umbrella of Student Assembly, most of whom pay the student activity fees the Student Assembly is entrusted to steward;

WHEREAS, the Student Assembly is tasked with being the premier representative body of the student body of William & Mary, including graduate and professional students;

WHEREAS, the 330th Student Assembly made tremendous strides to bridge gaps and better represent graduate students;

WHEREAS, SB 330-015: The Going to the Grads Revival Act gave Student Assembly Senate the chance to engage with and better understand the needs of students in the graduate bodies that are part of the student activity fee structure;

WHEREAS, SR 330-002: The Graduate Fee Allocation Model Resolution set forth a new funding principle that recognizes and supports the need for greater graduate student autonomous action with regard to the fee money they contribute;

WHEREAS, this principle was subsequently formalized in the Student Assembly Code with SB 330-031: The Review of OBAC's Annual Revisions (ROAR) Act;

WHEREAS, due to significantly reduced spending as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Student Assembly Reserves have risen to unprecedented levels;

WHEREAS, this surplus has been a subject of scrutiny;

WHEREAS, this surplus has allowed Student Assembly to pursue important but often more expensive strategic initiatives, many of which primarily affect the undergraduate student experience;

WHEREAS, the past funding model for graduate governance organizations did not allow a comparable surplus to accrue nor such strategic initiatives to be pursued; and

WHEREAS, this bill further advances the principle of graduate student autonomy over the funds they contribute.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Allocates up to \$30,000 to the graduate governance organizations apportioned according to the respective graduate enrollment of each.
  - a. Arts & Sciences/Graduate Student Association- \$3739.86
  - b. Master of Accounting- \$923.13
  - c. Master of Business Administration- \$4,876.02
  - d. Master of Science in Business Analytics- \$1,656.90
  - e. School of Education/Graduate Education Association- \$4,355.28
  - f. Student Bar Association- \$14,438.70
2. Intends this as a non-recurring rebate to aid graduate governance organizations in pursuing strategic initiatives with surplus Student Assembly Reserves accrued due to the pandemic.

<b>Org</b>	<b>Enrollment FY24</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>MSBA</b>	70	\$1,381.10
<b>SOE/GEA</b>	184	\$3,630.32
<b>A&amp;S/GSA</b>	158	\$3,117.34
<b>SBA</b>	610	\$12,035.30
<b>MBA</b>	206	\$4,064.38
<b>MAcc</b>	39	\$769.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1267</b>	<b>\$24,997.91</b>
	<b>\$19.73 per student</b>	
