Proposal to Support Universities Allied for Essential Medicines

Background:

Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) is a student advocacy group with chapters at over twenty-five major research universities in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. UAEM has been campaigning for universities to acknowledge their role in global public health, and to improve access to health goods in developing countries by changing their technology licensing policies. (Background information attached)

Preamble:

Acknowledging that an unacceptable number of the global poor who need essential medicines lack access to them; and,

Recognizing that university scientists are major contributors in the drug development pipeline, conducting more than half of the United States’ basic research and are responsible for important health technologies; and,

Fully believing that universities have the power to help make medicines and health technologies more accessible for the world's poor through their licensing policies; and,

Understanding that universities have an avowed commitment to advancing the public good, in this case both locally and globally in accordance with the Penn Compact; and,

Aware that a decrease in the price of medicines typically correlates with greater access (for individuals) in lower and middle income countries, and that generic competition is a means to achieve low prices for patented medicines;

Cognizant that UAEM’s mission has been adopted by GAPSA and various other student organizations (see background information) making this a collaborative effort across all students at the University of Pennsylvania; and,

Realizing that undergraduate support is integral to UAEM’s ability to lobby their initiative to the administration.
The Undergraduate Assembly hereby,

Enactment:

Supports UAEM and its two-fold mission to (1) promote greater access to biomedical end products in low- and middle- income countries and (2) increase research conducted on neglected diseases;

Further Supports UAEM's statement that "improving global human welfare is a primary goal of university technology transfer";

Urges the University of Pennsylvania administration to incorporate the aforementioned statement into its policies; and

Further Urges that the Office of the Vice Provost for Research operationalize that statement through concrete initiatives such as a change in technology licensing practices for biomedical innovations.