

Date of Meeting:	February 25, 2025
Ruling:	Constitutional

PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

RESOLUTION No. SP25-R004



“Move-in Loan for Incoming Graduate Staff”

Author(s): Vince Sassard

Sponsor(s): Vince Sassard, Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences; Harsh Pathak, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

WHEREAS, PGSG promotes the well-being of graduate students; and

WHEREAS, Purdue graduate students must incur large expenses upon arrival on campus for their installation such as, but not limited to, their rent and rent deposit representing generally ~\$1,400 (Exhibit A) and their travel to the Greater Lafayette area that can reach more than \$1,500 (Exhibit D); and

WHEREAS, This is a source of high pressure which can negatively impact the academic success of incoming graduate students; and

WHEREAS, Some faculty are aware of this and would be in favor of financially helping their incoming students; and

WHEREAS, The incoming graduate students do not receive their salary until two weeks after classes start,¹ leaving them in a state of financial insecurity while they await their first payment; and

WHEREAS, Not all incoming graduate students and their families can afford these expenditures (Exhibit G); and

WHEREAS, Incoming graduate students may not immediately be aware of grants established for their support; and

¹ <https://www.purdue.edu/hr/paytimepractices/paycontractdates/aycontractbi.php>

WHEREAS, It is not guaranteed that incoming graduate students will be eligible for or will receive existing grants; and

WHEREAS, Even if incoming graduate students are eligible for and aware of existing grants, there is not enough funding available through these grants to support every student; and

WHEREAS, A survey of 120 respondents reported that 67% of them paid between \$750 and \$1,750 for their rent and rent deposit, 23% paid more than \$1,750 (Exhibit A); 38% reported that they paid between \$200 and \$399 for bed and groceries upon arrival, and 15% paid more than \$1,000 (Exhibit B); 84% reported that they paid less than \$200 on the setup of their utilities (electricity and gas) (Exhibit C); 38% reported paying less than \$200 to travel to the Greater Lafayette area and 23% reported that they paid more than \$1,500 (Exhibit D); among the 59 international students who answered this survey, 22% reported paying between \$500 and \$599 for their visa fees including their fare to the embassy (Exhibit E); and

WHEREAS, 21% indicated being aware of other universities providing move-in packages (Exhibit F) such as Johns Hopkins University (\$2,000 on a financial need basis but not for international students)^{2,3}, University of Wisconsin-Madison⁴ (welcome checks for all students), Boston University⁵ (on a financial-need basis but not international students), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill⁶ (for everyone in Biomedical and Biological Sciences program), Arizona State University (mentioned in the letter of admission or letter of acceptance for merit-based fellowships, not for international students)⁷; 17% reported being aware of acquaintances turning down a graduate school offer or not considering graduate school because they were not offered a move-in package (Exhibit G); and 96% of respondents indicated being in favor of Purdue offering a move-in package to all incoming graduate staff (Exhibit H).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That PGSG asks the Purdue University Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars to offer to deliver its incoming graduate staff a move-in loan upon arrival equivalent to their first month salary starting as soon as Fall 2025. This loan must be paid back from their paychecks within the first semester. This loan should remain interest-free and each student should have the choice to opt-in.

² <https://eps.jhu.edu/graduate/admissions/>

³ <https://trujhu.org/contract/> (article 25, section 4)

⁴ <https://businessservices.wisc.edu/making-payments/payments-to-students/welcome-checks/>

⁵ <https://www.bu.edu/haa/graduate-student-relocation-assistance-grants/>

⁶ <https://bbbsp.unc.edu/prospective-students/financial-support/>

⁷ <https://rackham.umich.edu/funding/rackham-merit-fellowship-program/>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That PGSG asks the Purdue University Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars to offer this move-in loan to all incoming graduate staff in perpetuity.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND RESOLVED 6th day of *March* 2025.

Somosmita Mitra

President, PGSG

Victor Gutierrez-Schultz

Senate Chair, PGSS

Ethan Johnson

Parliamentarian, PGSG

Vince Sassard

Author

Vince Sassard

Floor Sponsor, Senator for Earth,
Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences

Certification

I, Abigayl Novak, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was regularly passed and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 6th day of *March* 2025 by the following vote:

AYES (28): Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) - Harsh Pathak
Anthropology - Taylor Symone Borgelt
Aviation and Transportation Technology (ATT) - Gustavo Sanchez Cortes
Biological Sciences - Ayomide Olohigbe Unuigbokhai
Biomedical Engineering (BME) - Mikayla Roach
Chemistry - Samson Marvellous Oladeji
Civil Engineering - Deepak Benny
Communication - Clara Elisa Hortua Alvarado
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) - Jacob Mishne
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences (EAPS) - Vincent Sassard
Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) - Nimit Agarwal
Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) - Delaney Frances Jones
History - Srishti Dutta Chowdhury
Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) - Kasey Paige Riha
Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) - Can Carkoglu
Industrial and Molecular Pharmaceutics (IMPH) - Rachana Sapkota
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) - Tuba Marjan
Languages and Cultures - Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore
Mathematics - Geoffrey Baring
Mechanical Engineering (ME) - Aishwary Shrivastava
Nuclear Engineering (NE) - Stepan Ozerov
Nutrition Science - Rojina Thapa
Physics and Astronomy - Allen Roy Murray
Political Science - Sarandan Green
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Emmanuel Oluwarotimi
Sociology (SOC) - Juwen Wang
Nursing - Christelle Altidor

NAYS (2): Aeronautics and Astronautics (AAE) - Arjun Rajashekar Adiga
Agricultural Economics - Emily Forsythe

ABSENT / Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication (AgSEC) -
ABSTAIN (8): Aimable Mugabo
Agronomy - Binod Joshi
Animal Sciences - Iqra Nazir
Biochemistry - Gaoya (Grace) Meng
Botany and Plant Pathology (BPP) - Pascal Okoye
Chemical Engineering - Katherine L. Young
Computer Graphics Technology (CGT) - Anant Upadhyay
Computer Science (CS) - Syed Hasan Amin Mahmood
Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) - Ariana Jolie Lazo
Engineering Education - Anyerson Cuervo
English - Dylan Henderson
Environmental and Ecological Engineering (EEE) - Yiming Liu
Food Science - Daniel Alfonso Fajardo Reyes
Health Sciences - Marwan Alajlouni
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA) - Khadija Mbacke
Industrial Engineering - Kamelia Sepanloo
Management (MGMT) - Rajeev Karunanayake
Materials Engineering (MSE) - Ankit Kumar
Philosophy - James Harry Day
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation (TLI) - Elnara Mammadova
Art & Design - Carolyn Guerin
Computer and Information Technology (CIT) - Khalil El Breidi
Economics - Navid Safahieh
Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology - Jude Tetteh
Quarshie
Electrical and Computer engineering (ECE) (Indianapolis) - Avijit
Saha
Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center (AAARCC) -
Nguyen Le
Mechanical Engineering (ME) (Indianapolis) - Shahrzad Ghadiri
jafarbeigloo

2025. **IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 31st day of August

DocuSigned by:
Abigayl Novak
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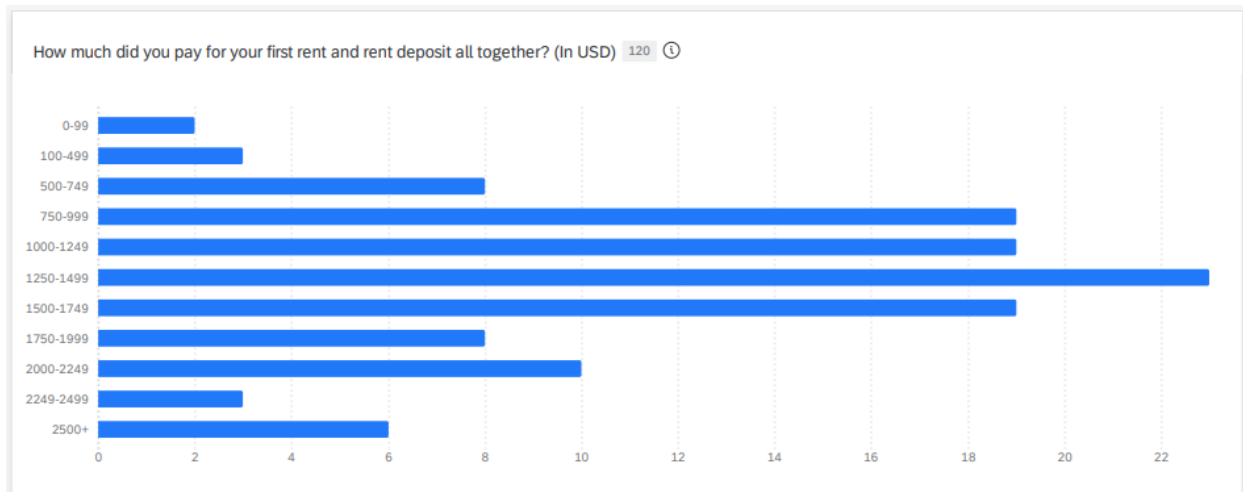
Abigayl Novak
Senate Clerk, PGSS

Exhibit “A” Table summarizing the costs of moving-in to the Greater Lafayette Area for a graduate students based on the responses to the survey displayed in Exhibits B-I

Expenditures	Cost
Rent and rent deposit	\$1,250 - \$1,499
Two-week groceries and bed	\$300 - \$399
Utility setup	\$0 - \$199
Travel to Greater Lafayette	\$100 - 299\$ / \$1,500+
Visa expenses (if applicable, 59 respondents here)	\$500 - \$599
Total	\$2,150 - \$2,995 \$3,650+ - \$6,645+

Exhibit “B” Responses to Survey Question on First Rent and Rent Deposit Payment

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]



How much did you pay for your first rent and rent deposit all together? (In USD) 120 ⓘ

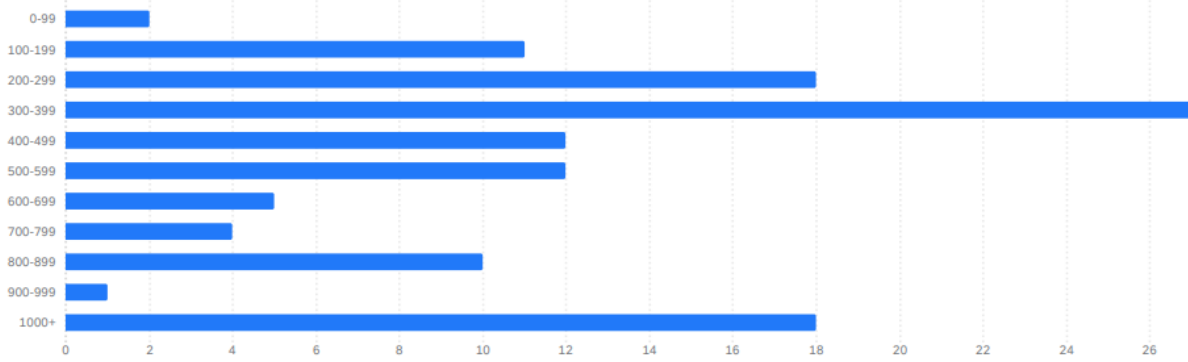
Q1 - How much did you pay for your first rent and rent deposit all together? (In USD)

	Percentage	Count
0-99	2%	2
100-499	3%	3
500-749	7%	8
750-999	16%	19
1000-1249	16%	19
1250-1499	19%	23
1500-1749	16%	19
1750-1999	7%	8
2000-2249	8%	10
2249-2499	3%	3
2500+	5%	6

Exhibit “C”
Responses to Survey Question on First Two-Week Groceries and Bed Expenses

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]

To the best of your knowledge how much did you spend on your first two-week groceries and your bed all together? (In USD) 120 ⓘ



To the best of your knowledge how much did you spend on your first two-week groceries and your bed all together? (In USD) 120 ⓘ

Q2 - To the best of your knowledge how much did you spend on your first two-week groceries and your bed all together? (In USD)

Percentage

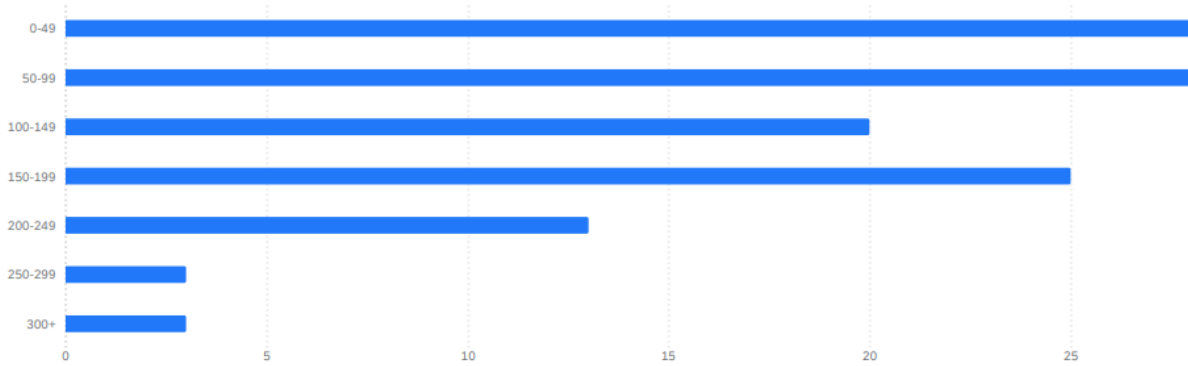
Count

Spending Range (USD)	Percentage	Count
0-99	2%	2
100-199	9%	11
200-299	15%	18
300-399	23%	27
400-499	10%	12
500-599	10%	12
600-699	4%	5
700-799	3%	4
800-899	8%	10
900-999	1%	1
1000+	15%	18

Exhibit “D”
Responses to Survey Question on Utility Setup Expenses

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]

How much did you spend on the setup of your utilities (gas, electricity)? (In USD) 120 ⓘ



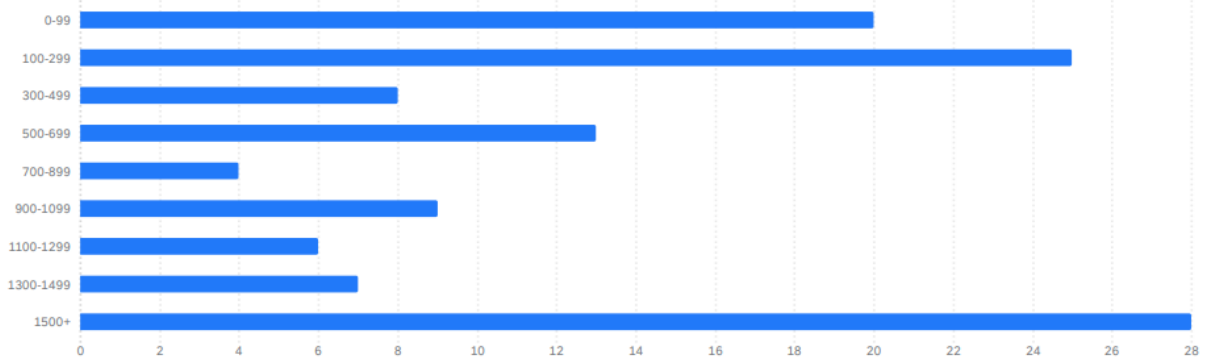
How much did you spend on the setup of your utilities (gas, electricity)? (In USD) 120 ⓘ

Q3 - How much did you spend on the setup of your utilities (gas, electricity)? (In USD)	Percentage	Count
0-49	23%	28
50-99	23%	28
100-149	17%	20
150-199	21%	25
200-249	11%	13
250-299	3%	3
300+	3%	3

Exhibit “E”
Responses to Survey Question on Travel Expenses

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]

How much did you spend on traveling to Lafayette/West Lafayette? (In USD) 120 ⓘ



How much did you spend on traveling to Lafayette/West Lafayette? (In USD) 120 ⓘ

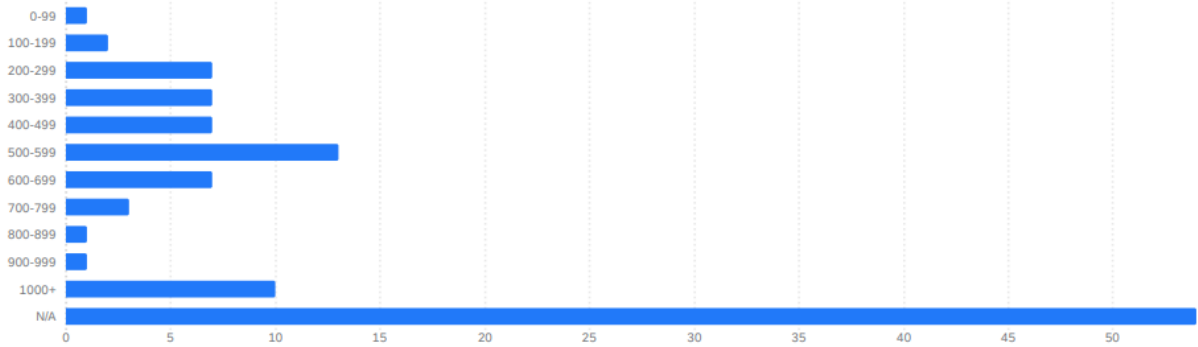
Q7 - How much did you spend on traveling to Lafayette/West Lafayette? (In USD)	Percentage	Count
0-99	17%	20
100-299	21%	25
300-499	7%	8
500-699	11%	13
700-899	3%	4
900-1099	8%	9
1100-1299	5%	6
1300-1499	6%	7
1500+	23%	28

Exhibit “F”
Responses to Survey Question on Visa Expenses

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]

If you are an international student, how much did you pay to get your F-1 visa (SEVIS fees, appointment fees, fare to US Embassy / Consulate, etc.)? (In USD)

113 ⓘ



If you are an international student, how much did you pay to get your F-1 visa (SEVIS fees, appointment fees, fare to US Embassy / Consulate, etc.)? (In USD)

113 ⓘ

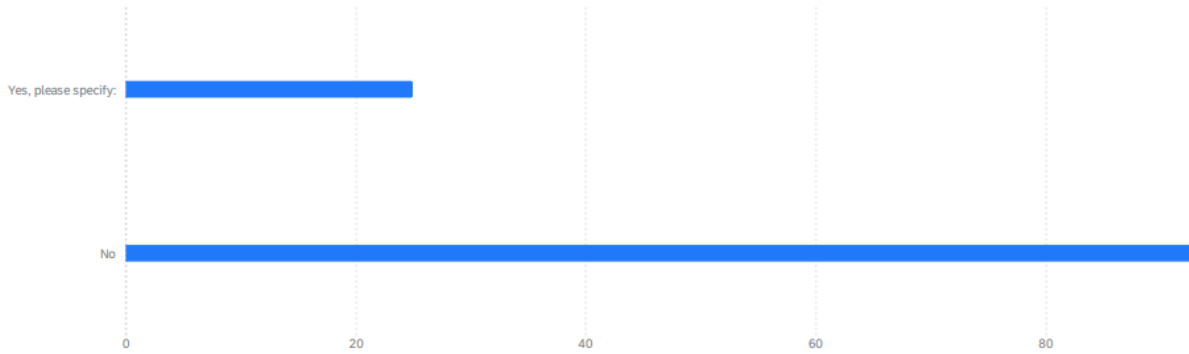
Q8 - If you are an international student, how much did you pay to get your F-1 visa (SEVIS fees, appointment fees, fare to US Embassy / Consulate, etc.)? (In USD)

	Percentage	Count
0-99	1%	1
100-199	2%	2
200-299	6%	7
300-399	6%	7
400-499	6%	7
500-599	12%	13
600-699	6%	7
700-799	3%	3
800-899	1%	1
900-999	1%	1
1000+	9%	10
N/A	48%	54

Exhibit “G”
Responses to Survey Question on Awareness of Other Universities Providing
Move-in Packages

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]

Are you aware of other universities offering a move-in package to their incoming staff? If yes, how much and which universities? Is it offered to all students or only to individuals whose application is considered "strong"? Please provide a link if you can. 118 ⓘ



Are you aware of other universities offering a move-in package to their incoming staff? If yes, how much and which universities? Is it offered to all students or only to individuals whose application is considered "strong"? Please provide a link if you can. 118 ⓘ

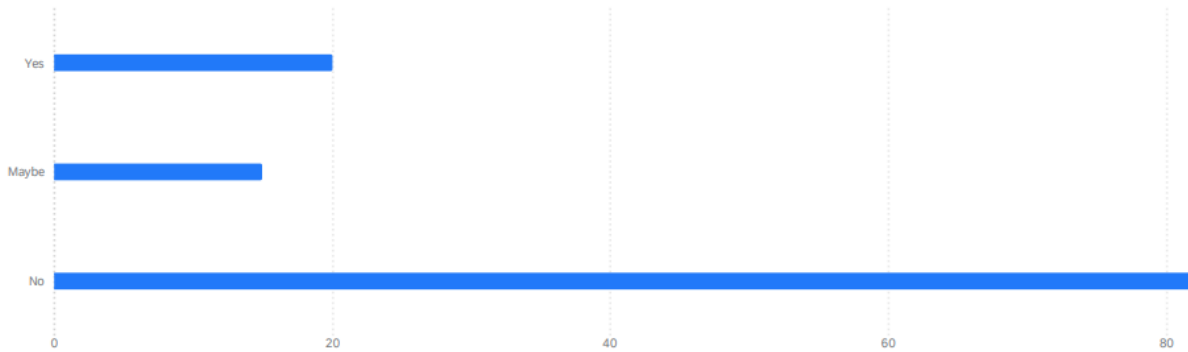
Q4 - Are you aware of other universities offering a move-in package to their incoming staff? If yes, how much and which universities? Is it offered to all students or only to individuals whose application is considered "strong"? Please provide a link if you can. - Selected Choice

	Percentage	Count
Yes, please specify:	21%	25
No	79%	93

Exhibit “H”
**Responses to Survey Question on Awareness of Students Who Rejected a
Graduate School Due to Not Being Offered a Move-in Package**

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]

To the best of your knowledge, have you ever met someone who did their undergraduate studies but completely rejected graduate school or turned down an offer from a graduate school because they did not offer a move-in package? 117 ⓘ



To the best of your knowledge, have you ever met someone who did their undergraduate studies but completely rejected graduate school or turned down an offer from a graduate school because they did not offer a move-in package? 117 ⓘ

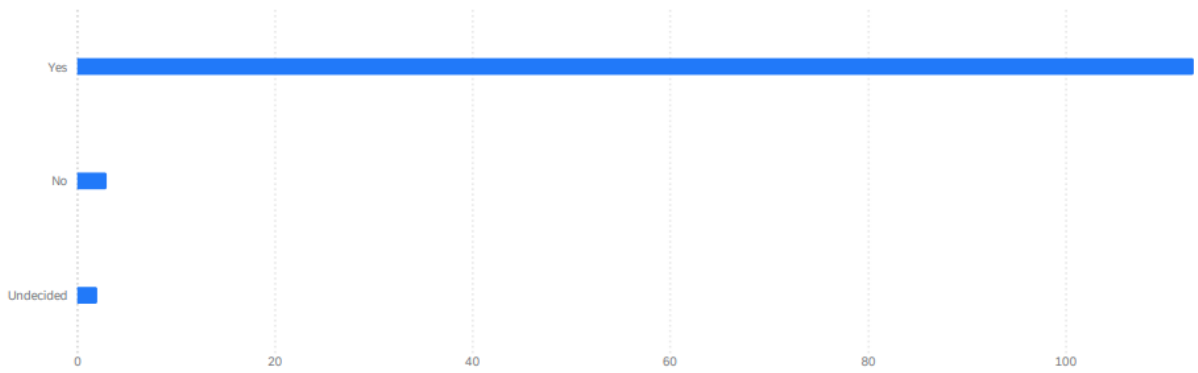
Q5 - To the best of your knowledge, have you ever met someone who did their undergraduate studies but completely rejected graduate school or turned down an offer from a graduate school because they did not offer a move-in package?

	Percentage	Count
Yes	17%	20
Maybe	13%	15
No	70%	82

Exhibit "I"
**Responses to Survey Question on Support for Purdue University Offering a
Move-in Package to All Incoming Graduate Staff**

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]

Would you be in favor of Purdue offering a move-in package to all incoming graduate staff? 118 ⓘ



Would you be in favor of Purdue offering a move-in package to all incoming graduate staff? 118 ⓘ

Q6 - Would you be in favor of Purdue offering a move-in package to all incoming graduate staff?

Percentage

Count

Yes

96%

113

No

3%

3

Undecided

2%

2