

RESOLUTION OF THE
COUNCIL OF INSTITUTIONS OF THE
UNIVERSITIES SPACE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

We being the members of the Council of Institutions ("Council") of the Universities Space Research Association ("USRA"), a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, hereby adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, USRA is an association of 102 universities, including 8 international universities, chartered, "To constitute an entity in and by means of which universities and other research organizations may cooperate with one another, with the Government of the United States, and with other organizations toward the development of knowledge associated with space science and technology;" and

WHEREAS a strong and inspiring NASA is critically important for our nation; and

WHEREAS research universities are extremely important engines of technological innovation in the United States and play vital roles in preparing the next generation of space researchers and professionals, as well as in developing and executing the space missions that help shape a positive, peaceful vision for all nations and give our country a competitive edge in a world that is increasingly dependent on space technology; and

WHEREAS the space workforce in the United States has been led by individuals who have had the benefit of hands-on training with actual space projects during their university years, and whereas the number of these crucial hands-on training opportunities at universities has been declining for decades, and that trend must be reversed if the United States is to retain its leadership position in space; and

WHEREAS future space research and exploration will be enhanced by the substantial and growing technological capabilities of nations other than the United States, and whereas for economic, scientific, and foreign policy reasons, it is vital that barriers to international collaborations by U.S. as well as other universities be reduced;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NASA should be reauthorized as the leader of the civil space program for the United States and provided with significantly increased funding adequate to meet its responsibility to carry out a balanced space program, including advancing knowledge in the scientific and technology disciplines related to space and aeronautics, as well as carrying out the enterprise of space exploration itself; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the NASA reauthorization should specifically acknowledge NASA's support of universities as partners who generate new knowledge, make new discoveries in disciplines related to space and aeronautics, and train the specialized workforce needed to accomplish NASA's missions; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that NASA budgets should reflect the historical precedent that at least 1% of NASA's total budget be devoted to funding competitive opportunities for hands-on training provided by university missions on sounding rockets, high altitude balloons,

remotely piloted vehicles, emerging commercial suborbital flights, and university class space flight missions; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the fundamental research exclusion in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations should be extended to U.S. aerospace firms, Federal laboratories, and non-profit organizations when they are interacting with universities in pursuit of fundamental space research and on university space experiment hardware.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the members of the Council have adopted this resolution at their meeting of March 28, 2008.



Edward J. Groth
Chair, Council of Institutions,
Universities Space Research Association