

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 a one hundred member university association 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, the research and teaching faculty of the member universities of USRA see first-hand the decline in workforce development for space science and engineering brought on by the diminishment of hands-on, low-cost flight opportunities involving students; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on the Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry found in 2002 that, "The nation's apathy toward developing a scientifically and technologically trained workforce is the equivalent of intellectual and industrial disarmament and is a direct threat to our nation's capability to continue as a world leader;" and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy found in 2004 that, "At present, there are insufficient methods for students to acquire hands-on experience in the scientific and technical disciplines necessary for space commerce and exploration;" and


WHEREAS, the National Academies Committee on Meeting the Workforce Needs for the National Vision for Space Exploration found in 2006 that, "NASA should expand and enhance agency-wide training and mentorship programs, including opportunities for developing hands-on experience, for its most vital required skill sets, such as systems engineering;"

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the council supports the plan outlined by the USRA Issues and Program Committee to provide multiple flight opportunities involving graduate and undergraduate students; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that we urge the United States Government and others to implement and facilitate a plan to provide space flight opportunities that enable the hands on training for graduate and undergraduate students.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the members of the Council have adopted this resolution at their meeting of March 30, 2007.

UNIVERSITIES SPACE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



W. Jeffrey Hughes
Chair, Council of Institutions