

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 104 universities, including 9 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 NASA is critically important for the United States, and whereas NASA should continue to be the leader of the civil space program for the United States and be 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

WHEREAS, the space workforce in the United States ensures continued world-leadership in space, largely because it is 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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government should take immediate steps to increase suborbital experimentation budget lines in accordance with the 2009 NASA Authorization that approved 11% increases in high altitude balloon, suborbital rocket, and university class spacecraft budget lines as a first step on the way to allocating 1% of the NASA budget for suborbital (sounding rockets, balloons, aircraft) and small satellite programs; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that emerging commercial suborbital capabilities that have the potential of providing human tended scientific access to space more cost effectively in the future should be encouraged by NASA and other U.S. Government agencies.

In Witness Whereof, the members of the Council have adopted this resolution at their meeting of March 26, 2009.

Universities Space Research Association



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Edward J. Groth  
Chair, Council of Institutions