

Resolution of Support for Graduate Assistants

As passed

WHEREAS the faculty have the primary responsibility for advising the Chancellor regarding academic and educational activities (Act 55, 36.09[4]);

WHEREAS equitable working conditions attract and retain talented and experienced graduate assistants and enable them to fulfill their professional responsibilities more effectively, thereby promoting the quality of undergraduate education;

WHEREAS the faculty depend on the contributions of graduate assistants to fulfill effectively our own professional responsibilities;

WHEREAS in the past six years, graduate assistant stipends have increased substantially (including an increase of over 27% for 101-funded TA and PA stipends during that period) through an effort to bring our campus to a competitive level with our peers;

WHEREAS current segregated fee policies place a financial burden on graduate assistants;

WHEREAS some peer Big 10 institutions provide some non-salary support for at least a portion of segregated fee remission for their graduate assistants;

WHEREAS the Teaching Assistants' Association and the Associated Students of Madison have called for the University to fully cover segregated fees for all graduate assistants; and

WHEREAS the segregated fee charge currently in place covers a wide variety of services, including some which other employees also pay to use and some which are exclusively student-related, and would cost approximately \$5.6 million to cover directly;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate commends and encourages the ongoing efforts by the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, and the Graduate School to increase overall support for graduate assistants;

Be it further RESOLVED that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate respectfully recommends that such efforts to support graduate students be continued and expanded;

Be it further RESOLVED that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate joins the Teaching Assistants' Association in their call for the administration of UW-Madison to fully cover segregated fees for all graduate assistants at this university;

And be it further RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate calls on the administration of UW-Madison to explore options for generating revenue such that this coverage does not adversely affect student services or place the burden on other students.