

## **Resolution of Support for Graduate Assistants**

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 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.

Be it further RESOLVED 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.