
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;

And be it further RESOLVED that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate, in the belief that the interlocking and complex budgetary impacts of segregated fee remission merit further study and that the appropriate body for such analysis is the formal shared governance Budget Committee, calls on the Budget Committee to explore options regarding the issue of segregated fees for graduate assistants that do not adversely affect student services or place undue burden on other students and to report back to the University Committee and the Faculty Senate in time for consideration at the April 2019 Senate meeting.