

*As adopted by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on 7 May 2007*

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF GRADUATE FUNDING**

Submitted by Professor Yafei Li, District 81 (Linguistics; Scandinavian Studies)

**WHEREAS** graduate students are fundamental to the research and teaching missions of UW-Madison; and

**WHEREAS** graduate students contribute greatly to the research endeavor, increasing both quantity and quality of research; and

**WHEREAS** many faculty choose to come to and choose to stay at UW-Madison due to the high caliber of the graduate student population; and

**WHEREAS** many national institutional rankings are based on the ratio of graduate students to faculty; and

**WHEREAS** graduate students play an important role in undergraduate education as instructors and mentors; and

**WHEREAS** the teaching graduate students do allows more undergraduate courses to be offered and keeps time to degree to a minimum; and

**WHEREAS** the contributions of graduate research, teaching and project assistants to the university far exceed the value of the stipends they receive and tuition remission is necessary for UW-Madison to compete with other institutions for talented graduate students; and

**WHEREAS** graduate students constantly shift between research assistantships, project assistantships, teaching assistantships, traineeships and fellowships, any policy which negatively impacts any of these funding sources will affect all graduate students, and could lead to the loss of the best and brightest among them to other institutions; and

**WHEREAS** the \$8,000 variable fee currently applied to research and project assistantships will reduce the number of such positions even as graduate tuition continues to rise, and make a continual increase of this fee very likely; and

**WHEREAS** declining levels of state and federal funding in recent years have forced cuts in university programs and services, and have diminished funding opportunities for graduate students;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the faculty will work with the board of regents and the chancellor to develop a 2009–2011 biennial budget proposal with designated funding which is sufficient, when combined with designated funding from other sources, to cover the full tuition and benefits costs of graduate project assistants, teaching assistants, research assistants, trainees and fellows, and will work to support short-term efforts to identify and secure additional funds in the current biennial budget for graduate students;

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the faculty will work with the board of regents and the chancellor to eliminate the chronic structural deficit in the university's budget which results from the inconsistency between expected and real graduate tuition revenue, while minimizing increases in undergraduate and graduate tuition levels, and to this end will push for amendment of the relevant Wisconsin State Statutes, including sections 36.27 (3)(g) and 20.285 (2)(d).