Academic Senate Resolution on Teaching Associate Fee Waivers

Presented by the following Academic Senators: Chris Henson (English), Honora Chapman (Modern & Classical Languages), Tamas Forgacs (Mathematics), Magda Gilewicz (English), Sean Fulop (Linguistics), Santanu Maitra (Chemistry), Laura Meyer (Art & Design), Ulrike Muller (Biology), Jin Park (Computer Science), John Wakabayashi (Earth & Environmental Sciences)

Whereas: CSU Executive Order 611 delegated to CSU campus presidents in 1993 the authority

 to approve fee waivers for graduate students employed as Graduate Teaching

 Assistants or Teaching Associates; and

Whereas: CSU Executive Order also stated that “Campuses are encouraged to develop

 appropriate policies and procedures to implement the authority delegated”; and

Whereas: the current contract between the CSU and UAW 4123 reiterates the language of

 CSU Executive Order 611 regarding fee waivers for Graduate Teaching

 Associates; and

Whereas: other CSU campuses, such as CSU San Jose, Sonoma, Humboldt, and San Diego,

 have developed and implemented policies and procedures to provide fee waivers for

 Graduate Teaching Associates; and

Whereas: Graduate Teaching Associates make valuable contributions to the mission of

 California State University, Fresno, teaching many sections of lower division

 courses and laboratory sections of large lower and upper division courses; and

Whereas: without Graduate Teaching Associates, the number of sections of some lower

 division courses and laboratory sections of other courses would be greatly

 reduced; and

Whereas: the pay for Graduate Teaching Associates is rarely adequate to meet living expenses

 and pay increases in the last ten years have not kept pace with tuition increases; and

Whereas: graduate students have few other means of obtaining adequate financial assistance

 on campus, often needing to work off-campus to afford their state university and

 campus fees; and

Whereas: the recruitment and retention of the highest quality graduate students, which would

 strengthen graduate and research programs at CSUF, is assisted by the availability

 of adequately compensated Graduate Teaching Associate positions; and

Whereas: teaching is an important educational and professional experience for our best graduate

 students, one that helps them prepare for future teaching responsibilities in their

 academic careers; and

Whereas: graduate students who serve as Graduate Teaching Associates have a closer

 connection to the University, both during their tenure here and as alumni; and

Whereas: fee waivers for Graduate Teaching Associates would contribute to the success and

 timely completion of degrees by both the graduate students who receive those fee

 waivers and the undergraduate students who need the classes taught by those

 graduate students; therefore, be it

Resolved: that the Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno strongly supports

 waivers of tuition and other university fees for Graduate Teaching Associates; and

 be it further

Resolved: that the Academic Senate urges the California State University, Fresno administration

 to develop policies for such fee waivers and to implement those policies for the

 2015-16 academic year; and be it further

Resolved: that this resolution by forwarded to the University President and to the Provost and

 Vice President for Academic Affairs.