Resolution on Part-Time Assistantships

Whereas a shared mission of the graduate programs of the State University of New York is to educate, train and prepare students for careers in all areas of study; and

Whereas most assistantships, grants, and other funding for assistantships do not restrict the use of money to students in full time programs; and

Whereas SUNY system-wide and campus-based regulations and practices regarding the use of state funding for graduate assistantships may disadvantage part-time graduate students in favor of full-time students; and

Whereas paper 8207 Tuition Waiver procedure precludes part-time graduate students from receiving tuition waivers; and

Whereas graduate students may have debt, children or other familial or work obligations preventing them from taking a full-time program; and,

Whereas under-represented students, such as students of color and women, are overrepresented in part-time programs due to the obligations above; and

Whereas SUNY strives to be a national leader in all of its educational endeavors and diversity is a core value for all SUNY campuses, and the SUNY Board of Trustees passed a resolution on September 10, 2015 “to make SUNY the most inclusive higher education system in the country”; therefore

Be It Resolved that the University Faculty Senate encourages the SUNY System Administration to eliminate any restrictions on the use of funding for assistantships for part-time students to allow this to be a campus decision about how to use their funds; and

Be It Further Resolved that the UFS urges all faculty, staff and graduate programs to consider part-time graduate students for assistantships, encouraging all students to have access to training, networking and intellectual discourse with faculty and other research.

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Resolution on Part-Time Assistantships
Passed