

Resolution on Graduate Student Fees

WHEREAS the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT), charges far higher graduate student fees than the national norm, as highlighted in an August 2, 2019 article in the *Washington Post*;

WHEREAS the average graduate assistant stipend at UT is just over \$17,000 annually while the minimum fees charged total almost \$2,000 a year;

WHEREAS these fees often negate an entire month's pay each semester;

WHEREAS a portion of these fees may be due each semester before the graduate assistant has received pay for work performed;

WHEREAS the Coronavirus pandemic has caused an increased workload and placed additional strain on the finances of our graduate assistants, compromising the security of a large sub-set of our campus community;

WHEREAS the faculty of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville recognize that the fees situation is bad for our university's reputation, for recruitment and retention in our graduate programs, and perhaps most importantly, for the well-being of our graduate students;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate strongly urges the Graduate School to fully cover student fees for all graduate assistants at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, starting fall 2021.