Resolution Number: RS17-360
March, 2017

Whereas:
Graduate Teaching Associates make valuable contributions to the San Francisco State University mission in their teaching, and

Whereas:
Graduate Teaching Associates provide education and mentoring to our newest students at San Francisco State University and contribute to the retention of these students through their excellent teaching and mentorship, and

Whereas:
Encouraging excellent instruction consistently across the colleges in our 1st and 2nd year courses could facilitate retention of our SF State students and set them up for success on their graduation path, and

Whereas:
Working with GTAs and GAs often encourages undergraduates to pursue graduate education when they otherwise wouldn’t have considered it, and

Whereas:
We recognize that teaching is an important educational experience for our graduate students that helps prepare them for careers in teaching and academia, and

Whereas:
The recruitment and retention of the highest quality of graduate students, which would strengthen graduate and research programs at San Francisco State University, is assisted by the availability of adequately compensated Graduate Teaching Assistantships, and

Whereas:
Several other CSU campuses offer tuition fee waiver programs for their Graduate Teaching Associates, and

Whereas:
Graduate Teaching Associates have limited ability to earn income and often must work outside of school in order to pay their graduate school fees while residing in a high cost-of-living metropolitan area, and

Whereas:
Establishing a tuition waiver program for Graduate Teaching Associates would require an initial costly investment by the University, that investment would likely be offset by a future restoration or increase of enrollments in our graduate programs, and

Whereas:
Graduate students who serve as Graduate Teaching Associates have a greater connection to the University both during their tenure and as alumni, be it therefore

Resolved:
That the Faculty Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate work with the Division of Graduate Studies and Graduate Council to develop a policy proposal that establishes a tuition waiver program for our Graduate Teaching Associates, and be it therefore further

Resolved:
That SF State develop short term funding mechanisms for this initial investment that may become a sustainable practice, and be it therefore further

Resolved:
That the Center for Equity and Excellence in Teaching and Learning work to establish consistent and effective training resources for GTAs across campus in order to bolster student success initiatives.