

ITEM:   9  

**Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees**  
**April 17, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Tuition Waiver and Rate Policy for Non-resident Graduate Student Assistants**

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

*Approve as presented*

The Offices of Graduate Studies, Academic Affairs, and Administrative Services request approval of a new tuition policy for graduate student assistants, effective Summer 2007.

Any out-of-state graduate student who has been appointed as a graduate, teaching, or research assistant for at least 0.25 FTE may be considered for an out-of-state waiver of tuition and fees. (For full definitions of these assistant types, see attached document.) If the contractual terms of their employment end prior to the completion of the academic year for which the award was made, the student should retain the in-state rate for the remainder of that academic year. If employment is terminated because of some fault of the student, the out-of-state rate may be imposed for the remainder of the academic year. Assistantships are typically few in number and reserved for the most promising out-of-state candidates. Consequently, only a modest number (no more than 10) of out-of-state students will be accommodated each academic year. The recipients of these reduced tuition and fees will be determined by the Director of Graduate Studies, or his designee, in consultation with the Provost.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Providing an in-state tuition and fee rate for our outstanding out-of-state graduate student candidates will help FGCU attract and retain the highest quality graduate students and assist the university's graduate programs achieve national

excellence. Presently, our graduate students are principally from the State of Florida and from our five-county service area. Making our programs affordable for our most gifted out-of-state candidates will further our reputation beyond Florida's state boundaries.

The revenue lost through these awards would be minimal. The cost of out-of-state tuition is prohibitively high; out-of-state students are not applying or are deciding not to attend because of the cost. Because tuition-aid dollars awarded to the Colleges are limited, programs are reluctant to provide out-of-state students waivers. Lastly, because the number of these awards would be limited (no more than 10 per year for the University distributed among the 5 colleges), revenue lost from the out-of-state differential would be slight.

Similar policies have been adopted by many of the other FL SUS universities including: University of West Florida, University of Central Florida, University of North Florida, University of South Florida, Florida International University, and University of Florida.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Definitions of Graduate Student Assistantships

**Prepared by:** Director of Graduate Studies and Professor of Marine Science  
Michael Savarese

**Legal Review by:** General Counsel Wendy Morris (March 28, 2007)

**Submitted by:** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Bonnie Yegidis,  
and Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance Joe Shepard

## **Attachment: Definition of Graduate, Teaching, and Research Assistantships**

The Florida State University System and FGCU define the three types of graduate student assistantships as follows:

**Graduate Assistant (GA):** A GA is defined as a graduate student employed by a College, Department, or Program to assist a faculty or staff member in the teaching of a course, the implementation of some university service, or in the conduct of research or scholarly activity. If the GA serves in a teaching capacity, that graduate student is not the instructor of record, but rather assists the faculty member, adjunct professor, or teaching assistant (TA) in the implementation of the course.

**Teaching Assistant (TA):** A TA is employed by a College, Department, or Program to independently teach a course for the university, similar in function to an adjunct professor. To qualify as an instructor of record, a TA must have a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours in their discipline completed toward their graduate degree.

**Research Assistant (RA):** An RA is employed by a faculty member, through extramural funds or using monies allocated by the University to assist that faculty member with research or scholarly activity.