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CSUSB Faculty Senate Resolution Strongly Opposing Discontinuation or Suspension of State University Grants to Graduate Students in the CSU

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CSUSB Faculty Senate Resolution Strongly Opposing Discontinuation or Suspension of State University Grants to Graduate Students in the CSU

- Whereas The California State University website http://www.calstate.edu/sas/fa_programs.shtml states that the State University Grant (SUG) program:
- “provides need-based awards to cover a portion of State Tuition Fee for eligible undergraduate, graduate, and post baccalaureate students who are students who are residents. System wide, the priority is to award a SUG at least equal to the amount of State Tuition Fee (\$5472 for undergraduate, \$6348 for teaching credential and \$4,962 for graduate and post baccalaureate students) to eligible students who apply for financial aid by March 2, who have an expected family contribution (EFC) OF \$800 or less, and who are not receiving Cal Grant or other award designated to cover fees”; and
- Whereas The CSU campuses have been asked to refrain from making graduate student SUG awards for the 2012-13 academic year due to possible changes to the awarding policy; and
- Whereas CSU Graduate Students, upon graduation, contribute significantly and substantially to the workforce of California; and
- Whereas Potential graduate students may not be able to enroll because of the cost and, if they don't, not only do they suffer as individuals, but it may mean the closure of programs to other graduate students because of the absence of critical mass and thereby lead to larger negative consequences, such as not meeting key regional and state needs; and
- Whereas CSU Graduate Students pay one third of their tuition and fees to the State University Grant program (SUG); if SUG is unavailable it is unfair to graduate students because they pay into the tuition discount pool and would receive no benefit; and
- Whereas SUG is an outstanding tuition discount re-allocation program model for higher education (unique in the nation); it is innovative and critical to the preservation of access for graduate students to graduate education in a University system that does not typically offer other forms of graduate assistance such as research assistantships and teaching assistantships; and
- Whereas Discontinuation of SUG for Master's students abrogates at least two critical sections of California Master Plan for Higher Education,
1. “CSU's primary mission is undergraduate education and graduate education through the master's degree including professional and teacher education. Faculty research is authorized consistent with the primary function of instruction: and”
 2. “The University of California and the California State University are expected to plan that adequate spaces are available to accommodate all California resident students who are eligible and likely to apply to attend an appropriate place within the system. The State of California likewise reaffirms its historic commitment to ensure that resources are provided to make this expansion possible, and shall commit resources to ensure that [eligible] students ... are accommodated in a place within the system.” (emphasis added) [CA Education Code 66202.5]; and

- Whereas CSUSB serves as an exemplar of access within the CSU to graduate education for underserved populations, ranking 20th in the United States in awarding Master's degrees to Latinos according to *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*; and
- Whereas Forty percent (40%) of graduate students at CSUSB are awarded SUG and in AY 2011-2012 702 CSUSB graduate students received \$3,242,888 in SUG awards, without SUG in AY 2012-2013 it is estimated that 642 Master's Students will lose this crucial financial aid; now, therefore be it
- Resolved That the Faculty Senate of California State University, San Bernardino strongly oppose any proposed discontinuation or suspension of the award of State University Grants to graduate students with financial need in the California State University System; and be it further
- Resolved That a copy of this resolution be distributed to the CSU Chancellor, the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Presidents, the Chair of the Academic Senate of the CSU, the Chair of California State Student Association, and all CSU Campus Senate Chairs.

Approved by the Faculty Senate, unanimously

Jodie B. Ullman, Chair

April 10, 2012

Date