I. Item Title: Graduate Council Resolution

   a) Brief Description This measure requests that Western Carolina University Faculty and Administration join with the Graduate Council to acknowledge the critical importance of graduate education to western North Carolina and to support policies that ensure that Western Carolina University’s graduate education programs remain competitive for attracting the best applicants and retaining the best students. The Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate request that WCU’s Administration make it a top priority to review existing university resources with the outcome of reallocating resources to provide financial assistance for graduate students that aligns with tuition increases and need.

   b) Initiated by: Graduate Council

II. Faculty Senate Action: ☒ approved ☐ not approved ☐ other date: _________

   Comments: ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   FS Secretary signature: Laura Wright date 5/12/2011

III. Provost: ☐ for information ☐ Recognition of Receipt

   ☒ for action..................☐ approved ☐ not approved

   Comments: ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   Person responsible for Implementation: Laura Scesney-Stanford

   Provost signature: ________________________________ date 5-16-11

IV. Chancellor: ☐ for information ☒ Recognition of Receipt

   ☐ for action.............☐ approved ☐ not approved

   Comments: ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   Chancellor signature: _____________________________________ date 6-14-11
Once finalized copies will be returned to the Provost Office’s representative who will scan and distribute electronically to:

Chancellor
Provost
Chair of Faculty Senate
Secretary of the Faculty Senate
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (for catalog and handbook)
Associate Dean of Graduate School (for catalog)
Others (i.e. person responsible for implementation)
Graduate Council Resolution
Relative to Graduate Education at Western Carolina University

This measure requests that Western Carolina University Faculty and Administration join with the Graduate Council to acknowledge the critical importance of graduate education to western North Carolina and to support policies that ensure that Western Carolina University’s graduate education programs remain competitive for attracting the best applicants and retaining the best students.¹

WHEREAS, WCU’s graduate studies are central to the university’s mission of creating engaged learning opportunities, incorporating both teaching and research, and providing an invaluable service to the western region of the state, and

WHEREAS, UNC Tomorrow sets as one of its goals to make higher education more accessible in the western North Carolina region, and

WHEREAS, few other graduate schools within the UNC system has endured as many budget cuts at the level the WCU Graduate School has endured since 2008, and

WHEREAS, graduate student enrollment is an institutionally-identified area of enrollment growth, and

WHEREAS, for many of the highly qualified potential graduate students of the western North Carolina region, increasing tuition rates and decreased personal funds make pursuing a graduate degree increasingly infeasible, and

WHEREAS, the lack of graduate assistantship stipend and in-state tuition remission funding jeopardizes our ability to meet our target for enrollment growth, retention, and increased applicant quality, and

WHEREAS, research productivity at WCU provided by graduate students directly improves regional economic conditions and hence state and federal tax revenues, any reduction will have direct regional economic impacts, and

WHEREAS, many of WCU’s graduate programs contribute directly to the education of WNC’s K-12 students and undergraduate instruction at WCU, SCC, Haywood, AB-Tech and other regional institutions, and

WHEREAS, deep cuts in graduate education will have a long-lasting effect on the state’s economic health,

Be it resolved that the Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate request that WCU’s Administration make it a top priority to review existing university resources with the outcome of reallocating resources to provide financial assistance for graduate students that aligns with tuition increases and need.

¹ Documentation indicating (1) the extent of WCU Graduate School cuts comparable to other UNC graduate schools, (2) the cost savings of using graduate students to teach undergraduate students, and (3) the economic impact made by WCU graduate students is available upon request from Dean Higgins.