

Graduate Student Council

GSC Resolution No. 2006-1

INTRODUCED BY: David Tobias

DATE: September 25, 2006

A RESOLUTION TO: Recommend that the Departments and Schools within MTU modify their Offer Letters to be more persuasive, in hopes of attracting potential graduate students.

WHEREAS, letters may typically read as follows:

“You will receive a stipend of \$5126 per semester paid to you in biweekly payments (subject to deductions for social security and state and federal taxes). In addition, your tuition and fees will be paid, excluding student activity and Union fees. In return, you will be expected to pursue your studies with enthusiasm, to devote half of your effort to the research/teaching duties assigned to you, and to maintain full-time enrollment status.”

; and

WHEREAS, the reputation of Michigan Tech is strengthened and enhanced with the addition of more quality graduate students; and

REALIZING, that each Department and School makes its own offer letters, and final responsibility for content rests squarely within the Department's or School's domain,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Graduate Student Council recommends the Departments and Schools include "total package" value in Offer Letters, which may typically read as follows:

“Michigan Tech wishes to offer to you a package worth approximately \$22, 158 per year. This will include a stipend of \$5126 per semester paid to you in biweekly payments (subject to deductions for social security and state and federal taxes). In addition, your tuition (\$4500/semester for 9 credits), CEE Department Computing fee (\$303/semester), Engineering and Computer Science fee (\$500/semester), and approximately 85% of your Student Health Insurance cost (\$650/year) will be paid. In return, you will be expected to pursue your studies with enthusiasm, to devote half of your effort to the research/teaching duties assigned to you, and to maintain full-time enrollment status.

To put this offer into perspective, you should consider the low cost of living here in Houghton and the Keweenaw Peninsula. Many inviting residential communities are located within 15 miles of the campus, and many of them have houses and apartments available for rent for less than \$400 monthly. In addition, Michigan Tech possesses a world-class faculty and a safe environment, as well as the area's natural beauty and numerous opportunities for recreational activities.”