

**Kansas State University Faculty Senate Resolution on
Dependent/Spouse Tuition Assistance Task Force Report
Approved by Faculty Senate on May 11, 2010**

WHEREAS, President Schulz directed Interim Provost Dyer and Faculty Senate President LeHew to convene the Dependent/Spouse Tuition Assistance Task Force in September of 2009 to study our current policies and suggest changes; and

WHEREAS, the Dependent/Spouse Tuition Assistance Task Force met regularly, secured relevant data, discussed the strengths and limitations of our current policy, and made clear and compelling recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Affairs Committee of Faculty Senate has reviewed the report of the Dependent/Spouse Tuition Assistance Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Faculty salaries at Kansas State University have been the lowest among Big 12 Schools for 19 consecutive years, and faculty salaries rank in the lowest tier among peer institutions nationally; and

WHEREAS, many similar universities offer a more generous dependent tuition benefit; and

WHEREAS, the cost of living in Manhattan, KS is one of the highest among Big 12 communities; and

WHEREAS, partial waiver of tuition for dependents represents an important benefit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT spouses and dependents that are undergraduates enrolled as full-time students should receive assistance equivalent to the resident on-campus tuition for 7 credit hours of courses; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT spouses and dependents must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program to receive this benefit, and dependents must be full-time students to be eligible for the benefit, but may be part-time students to receive the graduate benefit; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT spouses may be enrolled either as part-time or full-time students in undergraduate or graduate programs to receive the benefit; however, spouses enrolled as part-time students will receive a maximum of three credit hours; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT all students who receive this assistance must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress as defined by their respective programs of study; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the dependent/spouse tuition assistance applies equally to all on-campus, distance, graduate, and DVM courses; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT an individual student may benefit from the maximum credit hours contained in the task force report regardless of the number of guardians who may be eligible to provide the benefit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the tuition assistance through the program would be provided in addition to other forms of financial aid up to the total cost of attendance.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Faculty Senate strongly encourages the KSU administration to endorse and implement the recommendations of the Dependent/Spouse Tuition Assistance Task Force.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Faculty Senate urges additional measures to further strengthen the tuition assistance policy, including but not limited to:

Elimination of the stipulation “Funds will be awarded on a first come-first serve basis until budgeted resources are exhausted” in order to make this a true benefit;

Elimination of the current practice that dependents must appear on the employee’s tax returns in order to be considered eligible;

Continued work to craft a policy that does not discriminate based on the employee’s sexual orientation or lifestyle.

This resolution was passed by Faculty Senate on May 11, 2010

Melody LeHew, Faculty Senate President 2009-2010