

FGCU Faculty Senate Resolution in Support of Joining the Tuition Exchange

Whereas the Tuition Fee Voucher Program provided by FGCU allows full time employees and their spouses and/or dependents with financial assistance for ongoing education with a total of 6 credit hours per semester for FGCU courses only;

Whereas, FGCU's Tuition Reimbursement Program is available for eligible employees, and not spouses and/or dependents, who are accepted in degree programs of study not available at FGCU that assist them toward enhancement and growth in their current roles and that assist the University in its goal of talented and dedicated faculty and staff;

Whereas, Human Resources reports about 17% of the employee pool participates in the FGCU Tuition Voucher Program for themselves or a family member each fiscal year, demonstrating the demand for educational benefits for FGCU employees and their families;

Whereas, FGCU administration and UFF-FGCU have stated their desire to provide employees with additional benefits and monetary support outside of across-the-board salary increases;

Whereas, the Tuition Exchange Program is a reciprocal scholarship opportunity for eligible faculty and staff dependents at all 677+ individual member schools that allows employees and dependents to apply for tuition benefits at another school;

Whereas, membership in the Tuition Exchange Program would require only a small commitment of staff resources at FGCU and a nominal initiation fee and annual dues for membership;

Whereas, three Florida SUS schools, nearly half of the schools in the ASUN Conference, and more than 650 additional schools participate in the Tuition Exchange program;

Whereas, joining the Tuition Exchange would make FGCU a more appealing place to work for anyone with children or other dependents and will likely attract highly qualified students from around the country;

Be it therefore resolved that the FGCU Faculty Senate urge FGCU leadership within Human Resources, Admissions, Financial Aid, and Academic Affairs to establish a taskforce to examine the Tuition Exchange membership obligations and apply for membership in the Tuition Exchange program by the end of the 2022-2023 academic year.