WHEREAS, the faculty of Texas A&M University is concerned about preserving and enhancing the quality of our academic programs; and

WHEREAS, many of our classrooms are in need of major repairs and could also benefit from the addition of dimmable lighting, sound systems, computer projection equipment, projection screens, and computer network connections; and

WHEREAS, other instructional enhancements are necessary in areas such as laboratory equipment, instructional equipment, library enhancements, new faculty incentive funding, departmental operating budgets, University writing center and language labs, academic advising, wiring of dormitories for Internet access, and additional modems for off-campus students’ computer access; and

WHEREAS, Texas A&M University's graduate and professional student enrollment has fallen some 10% in the last three years, in part as a result of graduate assistantship stipends that have become non-competitive with those provided by many of our peer graduate and professional institutions; and

WHEREAS, graduate assistant net compensation frequently falls into the bottom quartile, and in some cases is last among all peer institutions; and

WHEREAS, staff salaries are becoming increasingly non-competitive, as evidenced in a recent study of classified Education and General fund budgeted employees which concludes that the starting salaries for University classified staff lag behind market rates by an average of 7.9%; and

WHEREAS, faculty salaries are 9% below those paid at our peer group institutions, making it difficult to retain the excellent faculty we have now or to recruit the kind of highly qualified faculty necessary to meet the future educational needs of our students; and

WHEREAS, compared to our peer institutions in terms of tuition and required fees, Texas A&M ranks ninth of the Big 12 universities and 21st out of 28 southern universities; and

WHEREAS, considering our well-established academic reputation, Texas A&M University continues to provide students with an excellent value for their investment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University strongly supports President Ray Bowen's call for an eight dollar increase in the General Use Fee (GUF) in order to preserve and enhance the quality of Texas A&M University; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate endorses linking future GUF increases to tuition increases.

Unanimously Approved by the Faculty Senate March 4, 1996