Resolution 2008/9-2

A Resolution to support the petition pertaining to the situation of international students on fee waivers that is being sent to President Carol Cartwright.

1 WHEREAS the presence of international students is key to having a truly diverse student body; and

2 WHEREAS some international students have received fee waivers from the University through the Center for International Programs (CIP); and

3 WHEREAS at the beginning of this academic year, CIP notified eighty-two international students with fee waivers that their fee waivers were being revoked; and

4 WHEREAS although nearly forty of the eighty-two affected students have been reinstated with their fee waivers, there are currently forty-two international students, in particular seven nursing and medical technology students, who have unresolved issues; and

5 WHEREAS these issues include the CIP’s decision the year that international students with fee waivers must complete their programs in eight semesters; and

6 WHEREAS another issue is the CIP’s decision this year that international students with fee waivers must have a 3.0 GPA, which is contrary to previous practice of CIP, which was that international students with fee waivers must meet the GPA requirements of their programs; and

7 WHEREAS another issue for the seven nursing and medical students, their programs generally take more than eight semesters to complete; and

8 WHEREAS these students were advised to take summer courses, and at the beginning of this academic year, CIP notified these students that it did not cover the cost of these summer programs, as it had in the past, and that the students themselves were personally responsible for the cost; and

9 WHEREAS the cost of these summer programs are up to $5,000 dollars per student; and

10 WHEREAS CIP worked up a payment solution that equated to these students having to pay $1,000 a month; and
WHEREAS international students can only generally work the set amount of hours a week as put forth by their visas, and they can only work on campus receiving campus minimum wage; and

WHEREAS the international students who receive these fee waivers receive them because of financial need, which also makes it very difficult for these students to pay such an amount; and

WHEREAS members of the BGSU faculty have written a petition to give to President Carol Cartwright to address this issue; and

WHEREAS the faculty who wrote the petition have stressed that the faculty be involved in the restructuring of the international fee waiver system, which the director of CIP has agreed with; and

WHEREAS the faculty has requested that fee waivers are reinstated for all of the affected students for the rest of their degree programs; and

WHEREAS the faculty has also requested that bursar balances due to tuition be cleared for the affected students; and

WHEREAS the faculty presenting the petition have requested a moratorium on new international student fee waivers to facilitate the University’s support for students that are already here; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BGSU student government support this petition based on these facts, and in so doing support our international students.