

**Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Resolution
Authors: Abu Jalal, Joshua Colburn**

Concerning: Non-native, English-speaking instructors

Whereas, high-quality researchers, students, faculty, and instructors are an essential part of the University of Minnesota's academic mission and performance; and

Whereas, the international community is an exceedingly important source of said high-quality researchers, students, faculty, and instructors; and

Whereas, the University of Minnesota hires faculty members, researchers, and instructors through a transparent and competitive process to ensure that the best available candidates are appointed; and

Whereas, the University of Minnesota continuously seeks to admit the best available applicants as graduate and professional students with the knowledge that graduate and professional students are often likely candidates for instructors; and

Whereas, University of Minnesota policy currently requires that all prospective non-native English-speaking teaching assistants either pass the SPEAK test upon arrival or provide documentation of a satisfactory score on the Test of Spoken English (TSE);¹ and

Whereas, University of Minnesota policy currently allows a student to withdraw from a class within the first two weeks without incurring any costs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly asks the administration to ensure that concerns regarding all aspects of instructor ability be addressed in a timely fashion; and, be it also

RESOLVED, that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly supports the increased availability of supplemental vocal training for non-native English speaking instructors such that their ability to instruct in English are improved to the benefit of their students; and, be it also

RESOLVED, that it is the official position of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly that the University of Minnesota and not of the Minnesota State Legislature is the appropriate determining authority for instructor qualification and preparedness.

¹ <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/nonnative/speak/>