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**To:** Geoff McBoyle, Vice-President, Academic & Provost  
**From:** Bruce Mitchell, Chair, Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee *Bruce Mitchell*  
**Cc:** Members, Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee  
Jane Manson, Director of Finance  
**Date:** March 16, 2012  
**Subject:** 2012/13 – Graduate Student Financial Support *Geoff McBoyle*  
*28 March 2012*

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The Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee (GSSAC)\* met on February 6 and March 7 to consider the TA rate, compensation for RAships, and distribution of additional funds across TA support, UW graduate scholarships and millennium bursaries. Further consultation occurred via email communication. The committee agreed to recommend the following:

1. **TA Rate.** Increase the TA rate for 2012/13 from \$27.70 to \$28.50/hour, effective May 1, 2012.

**Rationale:** This represents a 2.9% increase and is consistent with the committee's 2011/12 recommendation to increase the TA rate by 3% per year in each of 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. The 0.1% difference was generated by rounding and is compensated for with an incremental addition to the UW graduate scholarship fund as described below.

2. **Graduate Student Support.** Increase graduate student support funding by \$587,100 effective May 1, 2012, to be allocated as follows:
  - \$499,000 towards TAs and graduate experience awards and
  - \$88,100 towards UW graduate scholarships.

**Rationale:** This represents a 3% increase in total support, comparable with the salary scale increases negotiated with faculty and staff. A 3% increase to estimated TA expenditures and graduate experience awards generates incremental funding of \$518,000. Since the proposed TA rate increase is only 2.9% (\$499,000), the committee proposes that the difference of \$19,000 be allocated to UW graduate scholarships. A 3% increase to the current allocation for UW graduate scholarships is \$69,100. This amount will also be allocated to the scholarship base fund for a total increase of \$88,100. As there will be a carry forward of funds for millennium bursaries in 2012/13, no additional monies will be added to that fund.

3. **RAships.** Establish a voluntary guideline recommending that graduate RAships be compensated as follows, effective May 1, 2012:
  - Master's: \$5,650/term or \$35.41/hour
  - Doctoral: \$6,523/term or \$40.77/hour

**Rationale:** The Tri-Councils recently abolished their practice of setting maximum rates chargeable to research grants for RAs. In the interest of encouraging equity for students and reducing administrative burden on faculty members applying for grants, Senate Graduate & Research Council (February 13, 2012) and the Graduate Student Relations Committee (December 13, 2011) directed GSSAC to consider voluntary guidelines on rates of pay for graduate RAships. The proposed amounts represent a 3% increase from 2011/12 rates.

\*Committee Members

Bruce Mitchell (chair)	Lynn Judge (resource)
Mona Davies (secretary)	Michael Makahnouk
Ian Goulden	Krista Mathias
Robbie Henderson	Bruce Muirhead
Sue Horton (resource)	Paul Parker
Mary Jane Jennings (resource)	