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**To:** Geoff McBoyle, Vice-President, Academic & Provost  
**From:** Bruce Mitchell, Chair, Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee  
**Cc:** Members, Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee  
Jane Manson, Director of Finance  
**Date:** 20 March 2013  
**Subject:** 2013/14 – Graduate Student Financial Support

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The Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee (GSSAC)\* met on 25 February and 11 March to consider the TA rate, compensation for RAships, and distribution of additional funds across TA support, UW graduate scholarships and millennium bursaries. The committee agreed to recommend the following:

1. **Graduate Student Support.** Increase graduate student support funding by \$619,000 effective 1 May 2013, with \$480,000 directed to TAs and graduate experience awards, and \$139,000 towards UW graduate scholarships.

Rationale: This represents the equivalent of a 3% increase in support to both teaching assistantships and to UW graduate scholarships, which is in alignment with the salary scale increases negotiated with faculty and staff. This recommendation generates incremental funding of \$619,000. Since the proposed TA rate increase is only 2.63% (\$480,000), the committee proposes that the 0.37% difference (\$67,000) be allocated to UW graduate scholarships. With the anticipated carry forward for millennium bursaries into 2013/14, no additional monies are recommended to be added to that fund.

2. **TA Rate.** Increase the TA rate for 2013/14 from \$28.50 to \$29.25/hour, effective May 1, 2013.

Rationale: this represents a 2.63% increase and is guided by 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 0.37% difference will be accommodated by an incremental addition to the UW graduate scholarship fund as described above.

3. **RAships.** Establish a voluntary guideline recommending that graduate RAships be compensated at \$5,840/term or \$36.50/hour at the Master's level, and \$6,720/term or \$42.00/hour at the Doctoral level, effective 1 May 2013.

Rationale: The proposed amounts represent a 3.08% and 3.02% increase from 2012/13 rates, respectively, paralleling in line with salary settlements with faculty and staff.

4. **Matters of concern to GSSAC.** GSSAC members discussed several matters that, while beyond the terms of reference of GSSAC, require attention.

**4.1** After becoming aware that on some occasions graduate students are being paid at a rate less than that approved by the University, GSSAC recommends that the Provost assert to departments and academic units that TA activities carried out by graduate students must always be compensated at the approved hourly TA rate.

**4.2** Members of GSSAC conclude that while its role has been to reach agreement on rate changes for TA work by graduate students and to determine how incremental funds should be allocated among TAs, scholarships and bursaries, such a mandate does not allow another critical aspect that needs attention - overall funding for graduate students - to be addressed. Furthermore, members feel the focused mandate of the committee may produce unintended gaps in overall graduate student support.

As a result, GSSAC recommends that there should be a review of the funding provided for overall graduate student support, particularly given the goal to expand graduate enrolment significantly and given the steady expansion of the graduate student population which already has been occurring.

4.3 Given the recommendation in 4.2 above, members of GSSAC recommend that the terms of reference of GSSAC should be reviewed, to determine whether its scope should be widened.

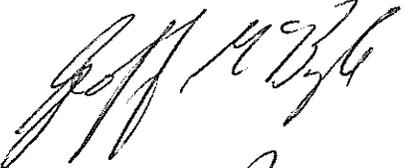
4.4 GSSAC also recommends that the membership guidelines for GSSAC noted in Policy 1 (Appendix D) should be reviewed. The reason is that the membership for GSSAC, other than the chair, is specified to be, "members (who are normally chosen from among those serving on GSRC)...: One Faculty Dean appointed by the Provost, and two Associate Deans for Graduate Studies appointed by the Provost, and three graduate students chosen by the GSA President, one of whom normally would be the GSA President". However, the membership of the GSRC does not identify one Faculty Dean or two Associate Deans of Graduate Studies as members. The solution could be as straightforward as removing the current statement that states other members of GSSAC are normally chosen from those serving on the GSRC.

\*Committee Members

Bruce Mitchell (chair)  
Mike Grivicic (secretary)  
Ian Goulden  
Robbie Henderson  
Sue Horton (resource)

Lynn Judge (resource)  
Jennifer Kieffer (resource)  
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Bill Power  
Daniela Seskar-Hencic (resource)  
Kerry Tolson (resource)  
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4 April 2013