



To: Geoff McBoyle, Vice-President, Academic & Provost
From: Beth Jewkes, Chair, Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee
Cc: Members, Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee
Jane Manson, Director of Finance
Date: 3 March 2014
Subject: 2014/15 – Graduate Student Financial Support

Beth Jewkes

The Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee (GSSAC)* met on 27 January and 27 February 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 unanimously to recommend the following:

1. **Graduate Student Support.** Increase overall graduate student support funding by \$657,000 effective 1 May 2014. This overall amount represents the sum total of individual increases to: funds for TA expenditures; graduate experience awards; increases to the graduate scholarship pool of funds. Additional detail on the recommended individual allocations to the named funding sources is provided below.

Rationale: This represents a 3% increase in total overall support, directly comparable with the salary scale increases negotiated with faculty and staff.

2. **TA Rate.** Increase the TA rate for 2014/15 from \$29.25 to \$30.00/hour, effective 1 May 2014.

Rationale: this represents a 2.56% 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. This is the final year in which that decision would apply. In line with previous recommendations from this committee, it is recommended that the approximately 0.44% difference forgone for TA expenditures will be accommodated by an equal incremental addition to the UW graduate scholarship fund as described below.

This recommendation generates incremental funding of \$496,000. This amount would be apportioned two-thirds to TA funds and one-third for graduate experience awards. Since the proposed increase of 2.56% is less than the 3% increase to overall graduate student support funding, the committee recommends that the 0.44% difference of \$85,000 be allocated to UW graduate scholarships. With the anticipated carry forward for millennium bursaries into 2014/15, no additional monies are recommended to be added to that fund.

3. **Graduate Scholarships.** Increase graduate scholarships pool of funds by \$161,000, effective 1 May 2014.

Rationale: this represents a 6.36% increase, which is calculated by combining a 3% increase to the existing scholarship pool (\$76,000) plus the portion of the TA increase that is recommended to be redirected into the scholarship pool (\$85,000). This recommendation generates incremental funding of \$161,000.

4. **RAships.** Establish a voluntary guideline recommending that graduate RAships be compensated at \$6,016/term or \$37.60/hour at the Master's level, and \$6,920/term or \$43.25/hour at the Doctoral level, effective 1 May 2014.

Rationale: The proposed amounts represent a 3.01% and 2.98% increase from 2013/14 rates, respectively, paralleling and in line with salary settlements with faculty and staff.

Breakdown of Increases:

Increase of 3% to overall grad support \$657,000		
Increase overall TA funding 3% \$581,000		Increase scholarships 3% \$76,000
TA rate set to \$30 Requires only \$496,000 of \$581,000	\$85,000 redirected to increase scholarships	Increase scholarships 3% \$76,000
Two-thirds to TA funds \$330,670	One-third to GEA \$166,330	Total increase to scholarships \$161,000

***Committee Members**

Beth Jewkes (chair)
Mike Grivicic (secretary)
Coleen Even
Ian Goulden

Robert Henderson
Michael Makahnouk
Bill Power
Linda Warley

Barb Blundon (resource)
Sue Horton (resource)
Lynn Judge (resource)
Jennifer Kieffer (resource)

Response from provost:

Approval of increase to TA funding in the amount of \$596,000 with one-third allocated to graduate experience awards (\$198,700) and two-thirds allocated to TA funds (\$397,300). The new TA rate will be \$30.15 per hour. No increase to funds for graduate scholarships.

Decision effective 1 May 2014.

