



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

To: Ian Orchard, 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: 10 March 2015
Subject: 2015/16 – Graduate Student Financial Support

Beth Jewkes

The Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee (GSSAC)* considers the TA rate, compensation for RAships, and distribution of additional funds across TA Support, UW Graduate Scholarships and Millennium Bursaries. GSSAC met on 30 January 2015, 26 February 2015 and 10 March 2015 and recommends unanimously the following:

1. **Graduate Student Support.** Increase graduate student support by \$470,000 in total, effective May 1, 2015 with all \$470,000 directed towards TA's and Graduate Experience Awards. There will be no increase in the Graduate Scholarship or Millennium Bursary funds.

Rationale: This is aligned with the salary increases of 3% and 3% for faculty and staff over the past two years, and the recent faculty salary decision of 1.95%

2. **TA Rate.** Increase the TA rate for 2015/2016 to \$30.83 per hour, effective May 1, 2015.

Rationale: This is aligned with the salary increases for faculty and staff over the past two years, and with the recent faculty salary negotiation increase of 1.95%.

3. **RAships.** To recommend that RA rates for graduate students also be increased by 1.95% from \$37.60 per hour to \$38.33 per hour at the masters level, and from \$43.25 per hour to \$44.09 per hour at the doctoral level, effective May 1, 2015.

Rationale: These rates are a voluntary guideline. They follow decisions made in previous years whereby RA rate increases also follow staff and faculty rate increases.

4. **Matters of Concern to GSSAC.**

- a. Members of GSSAC have expressed concern that the pool of graduate scholarship funds was not increased last year. While there is genuine need for the funding, process issues have prevented the monies from being effectively distributed. The GSO is taking steps to identify changes that need to take place both within the GSO and within faculties so that the funding gets to our graduate students.
- b. Members of GSSAC recommend that the terms of reference and decision making framework for GSSAC be revisited prior to the next round of funding decisions. GSRC, IAP and the Provost's office will need to be consulted in regards to any proposed changes.

*Committee Members

Beth Jewkes (chair)
Nadia Singh (secretary)
Coleen Even
Ian Goulden

Robert Henderson
Yuying Li
Paul Parker
Maryam Shahtaheri

Barb Blundon (resource)
Jim Frank (resource)
Sarah Hildebrandt (resource)
Jennifer Kieffer (resource)

Response from provost:

Approved. Thanks to the committee
for their efforts & advice
Jan Iata

**University of Waterloo
Graduate Student Support
Allocation Worksheet**

Available Funds	2015/16	
Estimated TA Expenditures	20,890,400	Based on actual 2012/13 Expenditures (TA and Sessional and Graduate Experience Awards).
Increase	2.25%	Enter % Increase
Total Available Funds for 2015/16	470,000	Amount to be allocated to TA, scholarship and/or bursary funds.

You can distribute funds by setting an increase for the TA funds in panel 1, row A OR by distributing funds in Panel B to the UW Graduate Scholarship and/or Millennium Bursary with the remaining funds to be used for the TA fund increase.

Panel 1

Proposed TA Pot Increase	2.25%
Amount available to TA and experience funds	470,000
One-third A for Graduate Experience Awards	156,670
Two-third A for TA funds	313,330
Remaining for distribution to scholarship and bursary funds	0
Total	470,000

A
B
C
D
E

Panel 2

Graduate Scholarship Pot	UW Graduate Scholarship	Millenium Bursary
Proposed Increase	0.0%	0.0%
2013-14	2,530,109	515,000
Increase	-	-

F

Panel 3

Allocations	2013-14 Budget	Proposed Increase from Panel 1	Proposed Increase from Panel 2	Total Increase 2014/15	Percent Increase	2014/15 Budget
UW Graduate Scholarship	2,530,109	-	-	-	0.00%	2,530,109
Millennium Bursary	515,000	-	-	-	-	515,000

sum not not exceed
D

Panel 4

Total Increase:		2014/15 Budget
TA Pot Increase	E	470,000
Graduate Scholarship Pot Increase	F	-
Total		470,000

Enter TA Rate increase

2012/13 TA rate	\$ 28.50	(\$27.70 * 2.888%)
2013/14 TA rate	\$ 29.25	(\$28.50*2.63%)
2014/15 TA rate	\$ 30.15	(\$29.25*3.070%)
2015/16 TA rate	\$ 30.83	(\$30.15*B40%)

- Notes:**
1. The Available Funds section is based on final TA expenditures for 2013/14, including the graduate experience awards and the proposed increase discussed at GSSAC.
 2. The TA pot amount is that to be allocated to the TA rate increase and graduate experience award (previously called the TA scholarship).
 3. The 2013/14 scholarship and bursary amounts shown are the current budgets for these funds.
 4. The GSA members need to advise on the actual allocations preferred and can make the changes, as appropriate to the proposed increases.

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Blundon, IAP, (bblundon@uwaterloo.ca) Ext 33428