TO: UVM Faculty and Staff
FROM: David V. Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President
       Cindy Forehand, Dean, Graduate College
DATE: January 12, 2016
SUBJ: FY17 Graduate Student Assistantships

We write to provide information about graduate assistantship rates (minimum levels) for FY17. Students receiving such assistantships hold the positions of Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), Graduate Research Assistant (GRA), or Graduate Assistant (GA). This group of students is an integral component of the UVM community, making critically important contributions to the research and teaching missions of the University.

The annual process for establishing graduate assistantship rates includes communication, consultation and collaboration among the Dean of the Graduate College, the Graduate Executive Committee, the Faculty Senate RSCA Committee, and the academic deans – culminating in a recommendation to the Provost and President.

This year, the collaborative discussions were further informed by a detailed analysis of graduate assistantship levels (by discipline) at peer institutions, and an annually updated database of assistantship levels of 46 research universities. This was done to assess the national competitiveness of our graduate assistantship packages, by degree type and by discipline.

The results have shown that, while we have increased doctoral stipends in recent years, the stipends in some disciplines remain less than fully competitive. This may impede our recruitment efforts. By contrast, however, the results show that most of our master’s stipends are at competitive levels.

Currently, all funded graduate students are responsible for 25% of the student health insurance premium\(^1\). This represents a substantial cost generally not borne by graduate assistants at most other research universities.

In December, the Dean of the Graduate College presented the Council of Deans with a recommendation to increase FY17 graduate assistantship minimum levels. A three-year plan to bring doctoral stipends to competitive levels in all programs was also recommended. The deans unanimously approved the recommendations, as have the President and Provost.

The approved FY17 graduate assistantship levels outlined on the next page reflect the priority our academic leadership places on graduate education, and our continuing commitment to graduate students at the University of Vermont.

\(^1\) In some cases, students may be covered on parental/spouse insurance. All international students are required to purchase UVM insurance.
FY17 Support for Full-Time Graduate Assistantships (GTA, GRA, GA)

1. The University will pay 100% (increased from 75%) of the single UVM student health insurance premium. This will save each graduate assistant enrolled in the plan over $700 annually.

2. Increase the minimum 12-month doctoral stipend from $24,000 to $25,000 (and the 9-month doctoral stipend from $18,000 to $18,750) in FY17.
   a. In FY18, further increase minimum 12-month doctoral stipend to $26,500 ($19,875 for 9-months).
   b. In FY19, define discipline-specific required minimum level to be competitive.

3. Increase the minimum 12-month master’s stipends to $21,333 in FY17 (and the 9-month master’s stipend from $15,750 to 16,000).

4. Maintain minimum tuition scholarship at current level.

5. Require minimum 9 credit (or credit equivalent) enrollment in fall and spring terms for graduate students supported on full-time assistantships.