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# Graduate Student Senate Presentation

## Living Wage Approach to Doctoral Stipends

Presented by:

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# Fees – Progress and Recommendations

## **Fees - Progress:**

- Graduate Student Fees reduced \$60 per year in FY22
- Approved reduction of an additional \$250 per year in FY23 – WOW! GREAT NEWS!

## **Fees - Recommendations:**

- Continue to decrease fees by \$50 per year until reaches \$500 per semester/\$1000 per year

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# Tuition and international student support – Recommendations

- For students in unfunded professional doctoral programs, ensure tuition frozen for duration of their time in the program
- Continue exploring variable tuition rate to reduce costs for programs without funding for students
- Explore resources available to international students and build a database of opportunities

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# Stipends – Recommendations

- Increase minimum doctoral stipend to the Vermont Basic Needs Budget and Livable Wage and
  - Minimum annual increases of 5% until this goal is reached
  - Use this metric for annual adjustment of minimum doctoral stipend
- Increase Master's stipends in an equitable manner compared to increase in doctoral stipends
- Encourage more applications for individual and University training grants and other means to secure stipends for unfunded students in eligible doctoral programs

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# Vermont Basic Needs Budget and Livable Wage

- The **Vermont Basic Needs Budget** is a market-based analysis that accounts for estimated monthly living expenses in Vermont
  - Basic needs include the costs for essential items such as food, housing, transportation, child care, clothing and household expenses, telecommunications charges, health and dental care, renters insurance, life insurance, and savings.
- The **Vermont Livable Wage** is defined in statute as the hourly wage required for a full-time worker to pay for one-half of the basic needs budget for a two-person household with no children and employer-sponsored health insurance, averaged for both urban and rural areas
  - Individual Living Wages are also calculated based on other family configurations and specific to urban or rural

Single Person Living Alone		Single Person Living Alone	
Resident - non student in Burlington/Chittenden County		UVM Graduate Student in Burlington/Chittenden County	
Category	Cost estimates (per month)	Category	Cost estimates (per month)
Food	336	Food	336
Housing	1265	Housing	1265
Transportation	458	Transportation	458
Health Care <sup>1</sup>	147	Health Care <sup>3</sup>	78
Dental Care <sup>2</sup>	4	Dental Care <sup>4</sup>	30
Child Care	0	Child Care	0
Clothing & Household Expenses	134	Clothing & Household Expense	134
Personal Expenses	94	Personal Expenses	94
Telecommunications	117	Telecommunications	117
Rental Insurance	19	Rental Insurance	19
Term Life Insurance	0	Term Life Insurance	0
Savings	129	Savings	129
Student fees	0	<sup>6</sup> Student fees	110
<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>2,770</b>
Annual Expenses	32,438	Annual Expenses	33,240
Federal & State Taxes	3,078	Federal & State Taxes	3,068
FICA/Medicare Tax	2,942	FICA/Medicare Tax	0
Annual Income needed	38,458	Annual Income needed	36,308
<b>Hourly Wage required (@2080 hours) to meet basic</b>	<b>18.49</b>	<b>Hourly Wage required (@2080 hours) to meet basic</b>	<b>\$17.46</b>
<b>Hourly Wage required (@1040 hours) to meet basic</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>Hourly Wage required (@1040 hours) to meet basic</b>	<b>\$34.92</b>

Current minimum doctoral stipend of \$26.46/hr is \$8,898 less than VT BNB

Current highest minimum doctoral stipend by unit of \$29.11 is \$6137 less than VT BNB

Single Person Sharing 2 bdrm apt with one roommate			Single Person Sharing 2 bdrm apt with one roommate		
Resident - non student in Burlington/Chittenden County			UVM Graduate Student in Burlington/Chittenden County		
Category	Cost estimates (per month)		Category	Cost estimates (per month)	
Food	336		Food	336	
Housing	814		Housing	814	
Transportation	458		Transportation	458	
Health Care <sup>1</sup>	147		Health Care <sup>3</sup>	78	
Dental Care <sup>2</sup>	4		Dental Care <sup>4</sup>	30	
Child Care	0		Child Care	0	
Clothing & Household	101		Clothing & Household	101	
Personal Expenses	94		Personal Expenses	94	
Telecommunications	93		Telecommunications	93	
Rental Insurance	19		Rental Insurance	19	
Term Life Insurance	0		Term Life Insurance	0	
Savings	103		Savings	103	
Student fees	0		<sup>6</sup> Student fees	110	
<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>2,168</b>		<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>2,236</b>	
Annual Expenses	26,017		Annual Expenses	26,832	
Federal & State Taxes	2,741		Federal & State Taxes	2,826	
FICA/Medicare Tax	2,382		FICA/Medicare Tax	0	
Annual Income needed	31,140		Annual Income needed	29,658	
<b>Hourly Wage required (@2080)</b>	<b>14.97</b>		<b>Hourly Wage required (@2080)</b>	<b>\$14.26</b>	
<b>Hourly Wage required (@1040)</b>	<b>NA</b>		<b>Hourly Wage required (@1040)</b>	<b>\$28.52</b>	

**Current minimum doctoral stipend of \$26.46/hr is \$2144 less than VT BNB**

**CALS, BIOE, CMB, NGP doctoral stipends all above the VT BNB**