

Rubin Announcement 6/11/15

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Subject: 2016 Graduate Tuition Waiver Policy
Date: Thu, 11 Jun 2015 22:42:44 +0000
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* _2016 Graduate Tuition Waiver Policy_ *

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The /Graduate Tuition Waiver/ provides incentives to individuals to enroll in graduate programs at the University of Missouri. Graduate education provides a significant public good in that it trains future educators, researchers, industry professionals and societal thought leaders. Graduate education also benefits the institution by attracting bright and innovated young minds to work with faculty mentors or campus leaders to address complex scientific, societal and thought provoking questions. In addition to a tuition waiver, graduate students receive a small stipend which historically provided for living expenses so that students could devote their efforts to their studies.

Research, surveys and analysis of graduate education and student support at American research institutions suggests most institutions either employ or are moving toward a balanced approach to graduate student total compensation, such that the tuition waiver amount is matched to the stipend support level. Stipend support less than 0.5 FTE is either matched by a 50% tuition waiver or in _most_ cases provides only access to resident level tuition and fees for non-resident students. A balanced approach ensures that students with a full commitment from an academic unit, receive a full tuition waiver.

Analysis of MU data from 2014-15 indicates we have 2692 students on tuition waivers (1396 PhD, 1272 MS/EdSp). Of these 617 are compensated at less than 0.5 FTE (140 PhD, 473 MS). We have historically had a very generous tuition waiver policy that provides full tuition waivers for a 0.25 FTE stipend (equivalent to 10 hours a week of compensation). The cost of our tuition waiver for 2014-15 was \$28 million (plus health insurance subsidy). These are real costs to the university and include faculty instructional time, facility usage and depreciation, as well as library and other academic services.//

- Beginning Fall Semester 2016 (including new students who begin summer session 2016), only students receiving 0.5 FTE stipends will be eligible for a full tuition waiver.
- Students receiving less than 0.5 FTE stipends will be eligible for a 50% tuition waiver.
- Current students will be grandfathered under existing waiver policies for the duration of their eligibility.
- This policy applies to students provided stipends by academic and non-academic units.
- Assistantships from non-academic units will still be required to provide an academic focus for the assistantship and students may not cobble together two non-academic 0.25 FTE assistantships to qualify for a full tuition waiver without very strong justification. Students with 0.25 FTE support from their academic unit, may combine that with a 0.25 FTE from an appropriate non-academic unit to qualify for a full tuition waiver provided there is an academic focus and justification for the second assistantship.
- After Fall Semester 2016, current students who are not enrolled for two consecutive terms (not counting summer sessions) for any non-approved leave of absence will be subject to the 2016 waiver policy.

Although most academic programs have only a few new students each year that are placed on a 0.25 FTE stipend, we recognize that a few programs admit relatively large cohorts (>10) of students each year and fund them at 0.25 FTE. We will work with these academic units to develop a transition plan that minimizes the financial burden in any one year and encourages programs to provide full support to highly competitive graduate students.

We always welcome your feedback about this policy and any specific issues you anticipate for your program under this new policy as it will help guide us through the final stages of implementing a balanced waiver policy for MU.

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