

Dear Graduate Program Directors,

I am working on assistantship budget allocations for next year and expect to have final amounts to distribute sometime next week. Most everyone's budget will remain the same; however, I would like to make you aware of two important changes.

1. Starting Fall 2012, the minimum full-time graduate assistantships (20 hrs per week) will be increased from \$7,500 to \$9,000 per year or \$4,500 per semester. Please plan accordingly.
2. This spring I will be working with the Academic Council, deans and the Graduate Council to develop a thoughtful and carefully deliberated process for reallocation of assistantship budgets for full implementation in Fall 2013.

Tentative outline of reallocation planning process

1. This spring I will work with the Academic Council (VCs Sheerer, Mageean and Horns) to give thoughtful consideration of and issue an outline of strategic priorities to be address by the reallocation process. Opportunities will be provided for input from the deans, associate deans, the Graduate Council, and graduate program directors. Anticipated completion date: March 15, 2012.
2. Once strategic priorities are set, I will develop a proposal process (RFP) whereby colleges and their individual programs will apply for assistantship funds under the new reallocation scheme. Anticipated completion date: April 15, 2012.
3. I will share this draft RFP and seek input from the Academic Council, deans, associate deans, Graduate Council, and graduate program directors on the process
4. The finalized RFP will be issued in early August 2012. Programs will be asked to submit their reallocation proposals by September 30, 2012. I will evaluate the submitted RFP's and make recommendations on the reallocation to the Academic Council. Afterwards the results of the proposed reallocations will be shared with deans and associate deans to make sure they will have an opportunity for feedback.
5. After receiving feedback and making revisions to the reallocation budgets,

if necessary, finalized budgets will be issued in October or early November of 2012 for implementation in the 2013/2014 academic year.

The point is to create a thoughtful deliberate reallocation process now for full implementation in Fall 2013 which hopefully will have the following benefits:

1. Consideration of the PPC process, permitting the utilization of its data and recommendations.
2. By setting strategic priorities for reallocation early, programs, departments and colleges will have time to properly prepare their RFP's and requests.
3. Knowing far in advance how their allocations will change, programs will be able to properly adjust enrollment and plan recruiting activities.