

Graduate Student Funding Reform: *Proposed Next Steps for The Graduate Division*

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The Graduate Division has shared a proposed plan of next steps in response to Senate's recommendations about graduate student funding. Below is a summary of that memo, focused on the items on which we'd particularly like to hear your thoughts today.

Block Grant: Replace current approach with a simpler and more predictable process, hopefully for class entering in fall 2021

Proposed steps (work to be conducted Winter and Spring, 2020)

- Winter and Spring 2020--Each admitting unit will work with their Divisional Dean and Dean of The Graduate Division to establish target size of incoming PhD and MFA cohorts (+/- some variance)
 - First-year fellowships will be guaranteed for PhD and MFA students, with understanding that admitting units stay within agreed-upon admissions parameters
- Winter and Spring, 2020--The Graduate Division will work with Divisional Deans and admitting units on defining how to allocate second-year fellowship money for PhD students
 - Main idea is simple: *give priority to PhD students who rely on TAships, to help them finish their degrees in a timely way*
 - The January 15 memo outlines one approach... but a simpler way might be:
 - i. Any PhD student who has been entirely dependent on TAship for support in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years will be guaranteed a second year of fellowship funds--these funds will be awarded directly to students.
 - ii. Remaining monies would be distributed to students using a process that will be created consultatively; the one proposed in the January 15 memo is an example of a possible approach.

TA Allocation: Replace PRC ratio with new, pedagogy-based TA load classification, hopefully for class entering in fall 2021

Proposed steps (work to be conducted Winter, Spring, and Fall 2020)

- Winter 2020--Gather input on definitions of *Intensive, Standard, Light, or No TA* for each class:
 - Definitions of these terms will be determined after extensive consultation with course-offering units, faculty, and students
- Spring and Fall, 2020--Model the impact of these definitions
 - Using agreed-upon definitions, each course-offering unit will be asked to classify their courses and signal what they believe is the correct TA allocation
 - The Graduate Division will gather these data, then meet with course-offering units to confirm course-by-course TA needs
 - The course-by-course TA allocation that emerges from this new model will then be proposed to EVC and course-offering units for confirmatory discussions, keeping in mind that total funds available are finite.

Final thoughts:

- The ultimate goal is that, at the earliest feasible date, UC San Diego will offer 5-year packages for all PhD and 3-year packages for all MFA students; in a few short years, we will also be able to offer multi-year guarantees of housing (at 20% below market) to students who want to live on campus.
- We are seeking simplicity and predictability, with *a priori* conversations about cohort size and deeper coordination between admitting units and TA-offering units