

University of Toledo Graduate Council
Resolution Regarding University and College support for funding of
Graduate Assistantships (GAs) and Teaching Assistantships (TAs)
FINAL- Approved by Graduate Council – April 16th, 2024

Whereas budget planning by the University of Toledo Division of Academic Affairs and colleges for FY24 resulted in significant reductions in funding support (stipends and tuition waivers) for new and current graduate students in many graduate programs;

Whereas current discussions regarding planning of FY25 budgets of academic colleges has involved the potential for even further reductions in funding support for graduate students;

Whereas graduate programs represent an important aspect of the academic profile and mission of the University of Toledo and college funding of graduate assistantships/teaching assistantships have been a long standing means of supporting current and new graduate student positions in many graduate programs;

Whereas graduate programs and college funded graduate students are essential for instructional/teaching activities, student success, community outreach and engagement, plus external research grant funded projects and support of the R1 research designation (as graduate students initially funded by colleges are available to later fill externally funded RA positions);

Whereas members of Graduate Council and graduate faculty at the University of Toledo have expressed concern about the continued reduction in funding support to many graduate programs who rely on that funding to continue to offer graduate degree programs that have student demand, and successfully educate, train and prepare graduate students for professional careers;

Whereas the reduction of funding support to many graduate programs as provided by the Division of Academic Affairs and colleges has resulted in the need to suspend successful graduate programs and resulted in significant declines in enrollment of graduate students in many other programs;

Whereas members of Graduate Council and graduate faculty have indicated serious reservations about the sustainability and future of many graduate programs given the recent and potential continued reductions in funding support by colleges for graduate assistantships/teaching assistantships:

Be it resolved that:

The Graduate Council states continued strong support for graduate programs at the University of Toledo is a critical aspect of the mission and strategic plan of the institution and academic colleges, especially in regard to their key roles in grant funded research efforts, instructional and teaching activities, and student success;

- 1) College funding support of stipends and tuition waivers for graduate students is essential to the continued success and future of many important graduate programs at the University of Toledo, most notably in the recruitment, admission, and enrollment of new graduate students;
- 2) College funded graduate students is a critical need to prepare students within graduate programs to ensure there are sufficient trained graduate students available to fill research assistant positions when graduate faculty secure external research grant funding and are in need of these graduate students to provide important roles in completion of that research;
- 3) The Graduate Council strongly encourages Academic Affairs, College of Graduate Studies, and the Deans of academic Colleges with graduate programs to continue funding support for graduate assistantships and teaching assistantships as a priority in FY25 college budget planning and implementation and provide more transparency;
- 4) The Graduate Council requests that the Interim Provost and College of Graduate Studies prepare a long-term strategic reinvestment plan for institutional budget support for graduate programs - beyond funds provided by the individual academic colleges - especially for PhD programs that are essential for maintaining R1 status and the continued growth of external research funding and expenditures as University mission and strategic plan priorities.