

# Graduate Council Committee on Funding and Fellowships

The Graduate Student Funding Task Force was established in the fall 2017 to examine the state of graduate student funding at UNC Charlotte. It was also tasked to make recommendations on how the university might better ensure sustainable and scalable funding for graduate students and make more effective and efficient use of institutional and extramural resources. When completed, the Task Force report identified three critical themes. First is that graduate student support should be comprehensive. It should include a compensation package as a position consisting of stipend and fringes such as tuition, health insurance, and fee support; transparency and consistency of work expectations and supervision; and the benefit of faculty mentoring opportunities for professional development. Second, is that such overall support should be extended to both masters and doctoral students. Third, is that compensation packages should, at a minimum, help ensure graduate student well-being and productivity by being set at thresholds that approximate a living wage. A key recommendation in the Report was that the University Graduate Council should establish a Committee and charge it to use the Task Force Report as a guide in leading the University to build a new model of graduate student funding that is both sustainable and scalable.

## **Function:**

The primary function of the Graduate Council Committee on Funding and Fellowships (hereafter referred to as the Graduate Council Committee, or Committee) is to use the findings specified in the Task Force Report and working with the University Graduate Community, Academic Affairs, Colleges, Graduate School, Graduate Student Government, and other stakeholders, develop priority recommendations for new policies and procedures for graduate student funding. These recommendations will be brought to the Graduate Council for consultation, review, and approval. The Committee will also serve as an advocate for graduate student funding on campus through open and robust communications, and maintain oversight for the long-term goals and objectives defined by the Funding Task Force Report.

## **Composition:**

The Committee reports to the Chair of the Graduate Council and consists of the following members:

*Chair* – appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School

*Vice Chair* – Graduate School Director of Funding and Fellowships

*Two Current Members of the Graduate Council* – elected by the Graduate Council to two-year staggered terms

*Two Graduate Students* (one doctoral and one master's) – the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) Graduate Council representative will serve on the Committee and the GPSG President will appoint the second representative; terms will be two-years and staggered.

*Graduate School Associate Dean for Enrollment Management – Ex-Officio*

**Voting privileges:**

All members of the Committee will have a vote on Committee motions but only Graduate Council members on the Committee (two faculty and one student) may vote on motions coming before the Graduate Council.

**Responsibilities:**

- Be knowledgeable of the issues and importance of graduate student funding and have a detailed understanding of the Graduate Student Funding Task Force Report <https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/student-support/funding-task-force>
- Be willing to consider the findings of the Task Force Report in terms of implementing recommendations that are in the best interests of the graduate students in supporting graduate education as a whole and not just a program or college. Understand that there will be different points of view in discussions and be willing to seek common ground through compromise.
- Foster effective communications and information sharing among and within the colleges, the Graduate Council, the Graduate School, and other units on campus as appropriate. Be a voice and advocate for best practices in graduate student funding specifically, and graduate education in general.
- Knowing that many initiatives will require new resources or changes in culture or behavior, be able to take the “long-view” in planning for the future but work to retain the focus on the recommendations as relevant and a high priority for the University.

**Meetings:**

The Committee will meet as needed as determined by the Committee Chair. Non-Graduate Council members of the Committee will be invited to attend Graduate Council as appropriate.

Final; September \_\_, 2019