January 16, 2007

TO: Deans, Chairs, Business Officers, and Directors of Graduate Studies
FROM: Jeannine Blackwell, Dean of the Graduate School
RE: RA/GA tuition scholarship awards for 2007-2008

In the 2007-08 academic year, the University will continue to provide tuition scholarships to all eligible research and graduate assistants via the RA Universal Tuition Program. Information is at http://www.gradschool.uky.edu/UniversalRAGA.html. The goal of the program is to have grants and other external sources fund RA/GA tuition to the greatest extent possible. The Graduate School will charge departments the actual in-state tuition amount per full-time RA/GA for AY 07-08. Our current estimate for tuition is $7,400, but this may change as we receive more information about the proposed tuition increase. In addition, some funding for these is available from the Graduate School in the form of TORAs and Dean’s Scholarships, as described below.

The Graduate School requests petitions from individual graduate programs that describe their overall RA/GA appointment levels and tuition scholarship needs for AY 2007-2008. These petitions will be used as the basis for the allocation of the available Graduate School scholarships. Please note the earlier than usual timing of the petition and the February 9 due date, in response to departmental requests to have award information in a more timely way for making offers.

TORAs: The original “Target of Opportunity” RA scholarships were established as part of the RCTF initiative to bring the university to national rankings. They were first awarded in fall of 1999 and renewed until 2004. They were given to programs which were chosen for their potential for national competitiveness. Approximately 215 of these scholarships will again be allocated to programs of excellence. A committee of faculty members will be asked to assess the TORA submissions based on a narrative from the department and giving preference to the priority areas for future development as outlined in the strategic plan*.

Departments should discuss their strengths and how their progress reflects the goals stated in the University’s strategic plan. Narratives should also include information on the department’s ranking vis-à-vis their benchmarks.

*Priority Areas for Future Development: Medical (Cardiovascular Sciences, Cancer, Infectious Disease, Neurosciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Toxicology); Cultural Studies of the Americas; Digital and Nanotechnologies; Environmental and Energy Studies; International Studies; Plant Bioengineering; Public Policy; Risk-related Behavioral Sciences; Teacher Preparation; Vocal music and performance.

http://www.uky.edu/Home/2003-06Strategic%20Plan/goal1.html
Dean’s Tuition Scholarships: The remaining full-time scholarships will be awarded as Dean’s Tuition Scholarships. Criteria for these awards includes:

- **RAs on existing grants and contracts that do not provide for tuition**
- **GAs and RAs in service-oriented units and centers**
- **RAs on new grants that do not allow the charging of tuition**
- **Programs which demonstrate that they have made maximum progress in hiring RAs and charging tuition in new grants**

2007-2008 PETITION AND AWARD PROCESS

1.) Petitions are invited from all departments that appoint RAs and GAs. Include the petition form (attached) and narrative. Departments should submit their information to the College Dean so that one packet per college is submitted to the Graduate School.

2.) All departments should include a listing of the RAs and GAs in the program and the nature of research grants in place. If you find it easier, attach your own spreadsheet to the petition, or modify the RA/GA Universal Tuition Program invoice spreadsheet. Please do not include social security numbers in the petition materials.

3.) For graduate programs that receive TORA awards, please explain why TORAs should be continued and why additional Dean’s Scholarship Awards are being requested.

4.) If by previous arrangement, the Dean of the Graduate School has committed tuition scholarships to your program for the coming year, please give the number and a brief explanation (institutional match, interdisciplinary service programs, special GA service categories, etc.). We will confirm these commitments in our reply to your program.

5.) The petition packets must reach the Graduate School in 203 Gillis Building 0033, by the close of business on **Friday, February 9, 2007**. An award announcement will be made by the end of February.
2007-08 TORA and DEAN’S TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS PETITION

Part I: Information Sheet and Scholarship Request

Name of Graduate Program: ____________________________

Name/phone of Individual Preparing Petition: ____________________________

Number of Research Assistants in Program, Fall 2007 (total): ______
   Number of RAs funded on grants & contracts (ledger 4): ______
   (exclude training grants)
   Number of RAs funded from departmental sources (ledger 2, 3, 5): ______
   Number of RAs funded from a training grant: ______

Number of Graduate Assistants in Program, Fall 2007 (total): ______
   Number of GAs funded from sources inside the Dept. ______
   Number of GAs funded from sources outside the Dept. ______

Number of RAs/GAs who will be in zero-hour status
(XXX 748, 749 or 769), Fall 2007 (total): ______

Number of RAs/GAs who will be registered for 2 credit hours
Of (XXX 767), Fall 2007 (total): ______

Number of TORA Awards Currently Allocated to the Program: ______

Number of TORA Scholarships Requested: ______
Number of Dean’s Scholarships Requested: ______

Instructions: please provide your best estimates for the fall 2007 semester. For research assistants, please report the source of funding, as indicated. All RAs supported on a grant or contract should be reported in that category, regardless of whether or not the grant actually resides in the unit. Please do not include students who are considered fellows by the University. Students who receive a “half” RA or GA should be counted as 0.5 in your estimates. If you have questions in this regard, please contact the Graduate School Funding Office: 7-3261; pat.whitlow@uky.edu or tom.hanna@uky.edu
http://www.gradschool.uky.edu/UniversalRAGA.html

Part II: Attach narrative (please limit to two pages)
Due: Friday, February 9, 2007