MEMORANDUM

To: Deans, Directors, Chairs, Directors of Graduate Studies and Business Officers

From: Michael T. Nietzel, Acting Provost
       James Boling, Acting Vice President for Research
       Del Collins, Associate Vice President for Research

Subject: Research and Graduate Assistant Tuition Scholarships

On September 6, 2001, the University announced a new policy regarding in-state tuition scholarships for research and graduate assistants beginning with the Fall 2002 Semester. Under this new policy, all qualifying research and graduate assistants will receive tuition scholarships for both the in-state and out-of-state portion of tuition, consistent with the current policy for tuition scholarships as applied to teaching assistants (see details, below). This new policy for RA and GA tuition scholarships will result in more competitive support packages for these individuals.

As indicated in the original memorandum (dated September 6, 2001), the starting date for the new tuition policy is July 1, 2002. To facilitate the change, all principal investigators must now include a separate budget line for tuition in any proposal submission. For any RA paid on a (ledger 4) grant, the grant must also cover the RA's tuition either by charging the grant or by cost sharing from another source. Since the original memo of September 6, we have received a broad range of constructive feedback regarding the level at which tuition should be charged against grants and contracts. As a result of that input, we have decided to adjust the figure for the 2002-2003 academic year to $4,100 per student per year. This figure is to be included in all new proposal submissions effective immediately. For 2003-2004, include $4,600 per student per year in any new proposal, and in 2004-2005, include $5,100 per student per year (i.e., these figures should be applied when constructing budgets for multi-year grant proposals).

It should be recognized that these figures maintain a significant tuition subsidy on the part of the University. In the coming months, it is our intention to look at this issue more broadly by exploring tuition charging policies at our benchmark institutions, reviewing funding policies at various agencies, and discussing the issue with investigators and administrators involved in the research enterprise at the University. An appropriate goal for the University would be to recover a larger share of the overall tuition cost from
grants and contracts, and we anticipate making progress in this direction over the next few years. The policy that ultimately emerges will reflect our commitment towards this goal, while at the same time recognizing the realities of the funding landscape and the University’s need to ensure an expanding range of assistantship opportunities for its graduate students.

Between now and Fall 2002, the Graduate School will work with the Office of the Controller and Treasurer and the Office of Sponsored Projects Administration to establish the administrative structure necessary for the implementation of this policy. Specific details regarding the manner in which tuition will be charged against grants and contracts will be forthcoming. The general policy for RA and GA in-state tuition scholarships is as follows:

All degree-seeking research assistants and graduate assistants with a 3.0 graduate grade-point average or higher who (1) are identified in the Human Resources System (HRS) with an RA or GA job classification, (2) have a signed Graduate Student Academic Staff Notice of Appointment form (GSAS) on file with the Graduate School, and (3) have a stipend that meets Reasonable Compensation rates will receive the in-state tuition scholarship. The tuition scholarship will apply to the Fall and Spring terms only. These scholarships for RA’s and GA’s will not be available for the summer terms. Tuition provided to RA’s on ledger 4 accounts will be charged against the grant or contract. Please note, however, that the tuition amount will not be charged against eligible RA’s and GA’s funded on ledger 3 or ledger 5 accounts. In these cases, tuition will be provided through the Graduate School.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Lisa Collins in the Graduate School at lcollin@pop.uky.edu, 257-3261.