TO: Deans, Chairs, Business Officers, and Directors of Graduate Studies
FROM: Jeannine Blackwell, Dean of the Graduate School
DATE: January 14, 2008
RE: RA/GA Tuition Scholarship Awards for 2008-2009

In the 2008-09 academic year, the University will continue to provide tuition scholarships to all eligible research and graduate assistants via the RA Universal Tuition Program. 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 standard tuition rate per full-time RA/GA for AY 08-09. The University will pay the out-of-state portion of this tuition for all RAs and GAs. Our current estimate for in-state tuition is $8,000, but this may change as we receive more information about the budget and proposed tuition increase. For more information, see http://www.gradschool.uky.edu/UniversalRAGA.html.

The Graduate School requests petitions from individual graduate programs (or hiring departments) that describe their overall RA/GA appointment levels for this year and tuition scholarship needs for AY 2008-2009. These petitions, including narrative and attached form, will be used as the basis for the allocation of the available Graduate School scholarships. There are two types of awards:

1. DEAN’S SCHOLARSHIPS are used to pay tuition costs for RAs on grants from agencies which do not pay tuition, and to honor the Graduate Dean’s previous commitments to startup and matching for grants. Criteria for selection are:
   - Progress toward Top 20 goals, including diversity (narrative);
   - RAs on existing grants and contracts that do not provide for tuition (see form);
   - RAs on new grants that do not allow the charging of tuition (see form);
   - Programs which demonstrate that they have made maximum progress in hiring RAs and charging tuition in new grants (narrative);
   - GAs and RAs in service-oriented units and centers (see form). Please note: the decisions on these requests may be delayed until we have more budget information.

2. TORAs: The original “Target of Opportunity” RA scholarships were established as part of the RCTF initiative to bring the university to national rankings and increase competitiveness in selected programs. They were first awarded in fall of 1999 and renewed until 2004. Funding will also be available for 2008-09, and all programs may compete for these awards.

Petition Process: Each program requesting Dean’s Scholarships and/or TORA awards should submit a two-page narrative about their programs and the attached spreadsheet form. In the narrative, departments should discuss their strengths, ranking vis-à-vis their benchmarks, progress toward diversity in their student body and other strategic plan goals. Do not include potential or future commitment requests based on grant and funding applications not yet submitted or decided upon.

The petition packets -- summary spreadsheet (attached) and program narrative -- should be collated by college and must reach the Graduate School in 203 Gillis Building 0033, by the close of business on Friday, February 8, 2008. An award announcement will be made by the end of February to each Dean and College Business Officer in order to assist programs in making timely offers for 2008-09. If you have questions about the petition, please contact the Graduate School Funding Office: 7-3261; tom.hanna@uky.edu.