June 16, 2009

To: Graduate Program Chairs
   Graduate Program Department Administrators/Grad Coordinators

CC: School/Colleges Deans
    Members of Task Force on Fellows and Trainees
    T32 Directors

From: Julie Underwood, Interim Provost
       Darrell Bazzell, Vice Chancellor for Administration
       Martin T. Cadwallader, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Chancellor for Research

Re: Tuition Remission/Supplementation for Graduate Fellows and Trainees

We are pleased to announce a campus-wide policy designed to support the competitiveness of our graduate programs and to allow our graduate students to benefit from the greatest number of prestigious fellowships and traineeships funded by gifts and grants. We would also like to take this occasion to thank the members of the 2007-08 Task Force on Fellows and Trainees, chaired by Professor David McDonald, for their valuable input and recommendations.

1. All NIH Traineeships (T32) and NIH Fellowships (NRSA) tuition, fees, and fringes will be fully supplemented by the Graduate School, using a combination of WARF and other campus resources.

2. All other internal (University, AOF, Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships) AND external fellowships and traineeships with a stipend equal to or greater than a 33.3% RAship will be granted remission of the non-resident portion of tuition. This new policy will substantially reduce the cost to gift funds of departmental or program fellowships, and will permit the cost-of-education allowance of many external awards to cover a greater share of the cost of resident tuition, fees, and fringes.

Despite the overall positive benefit of this new policy to individuals and programs on campus, we recognize that there may still be a shortfall in certain awards. The remaining shortfall will be the responsibility of the administrative home of the fellowship or traineeship.

Because we expect that this new policy will permit UW-Madison to accept more graduate support than we have been able in the past, and in order to most efficiently administer and track external as well as internal fellowships on campus, all requests for tuition remission will be made through the Graduate School. A separate memo will be sent to Chairs of Graduate Programs and Graduate Coordinators in the near future, outlining the procedure for requests.
Please note that this policy covers only fellows and trainees; the existing policy for graduate assistants (TA, PA, RA) remains in force. We are pleased to report, however, that there will be NO increase in the current level of tuition surcharge for graduate assistants in the next year. We will continue to evaluate the magnitude of any continuing shortfall, and the tuition remission surcharge may have to be adjusted in subsequent years, as originally announced.