Date: February 5, 2019

To: L&S Chairs, Directors, and Department Administrators

From: John Karl Scholz, Dean

Re: TA Rates for 2019-20

As has already been announced, central campus has again provided significant new funding to increase minimum TA stipends. For 2019-20, the new minimum (9-month 100%) TA stipend rate is $40,000, which represents a 23.5 percent increase in just two years. L&S is very grateful to central campus for providing this support, as it has been critical to our efforts to ensure we remain competitive with our AAU peers in terms of our TA stipend rate.

To that end, L&S once again took into account the data collected by APIR on TA rates at peer public institutions to determine our internal TA stipend rates, while maintaining the campus minimum rate. Many of you will recall that for 2017-2018, L&S supplemented the available campus funding and adopted a two-tier structure to address identified TA rate gaps relative to our AAU peers. Following a review of the most recent data, L&S has decided to continue to maintain two tiers of TA rates, with no change in the assignment of departments to tiers.

- Departments in the lower tier ($36,700 for 2018-19) will have a rate of $40,000 for 2019-20.
- Departments in the upper tier ($40,000 for 2018-19) will have a rate of $44,000 for 2019-20.

Given the tier assignments, all L&S departments will have TA rates at or above the peer median for their discipline (based on the peer data collected by APIR). The College will continue to review tier assignments and rates annually as we receive new data on peer rates. The goal (contingent on campus and College resources) is to maintain competitive market-based TA rates for all L&S departments.

Departments will receive new budget to cover the rate increases through their BSRs. The L&S Budget Office will multiply the percentage change in each department’s TA rate by the department’s TA spending for FY19 (once this is known at the end of the fiscal year) to determine the additional TA budget for FY20. This amount will be posted to the department’s TA Budget sheet as an ongoing credit.
Given the increase in TA rates, some departments may wish to increase their Lecturer SA rate. Such requests will be considered by the College as part of the upcoming STS exercise. Following our BSR accounting policy, all Lecturer SA costs will be charged to the department’s STS Budget sheet.

Please contact Brian Bubenzer, L&S Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Administration (brian.bubenzer@wisc.edu) if you have any questions. To coordinate reporting, Brian will enter the new TA/PA/RA rates for 2019-20 into the Graduate School website on behalf of L&S departments. Please note that any change in departmental RA rates for 2019-20 will require College approval. In order to meet the Grad School deadline, please contact Brian before February 25 (and sooner if possible).

Thank you.