

From: Claudia Mitchell-Kernan
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 4:30 PM
Subject: Changes in Graduate Division Funding Programs

UCLA *Graduate Division*

December 9, 2008

Dear Chairs and Administrative Staff:

RE: Changes in Graduate Division Funding Programs

I write to formally convey changes in Graduate Division Funding Programs which were discussed at our recent meetings with Chairs and Faculty Graduate Advisors. I expect to forward block grant allocations within the next week and this reminder is intended to confirm the changes previously announced so that you will be sure to keep them in view in your financial decision making.

Portable Supplement

For over 15 years the Graduate Division has invested monetary resources in an attempt to stimulate applications for, and increase the yield of, extramural funding for graduate students. We combined the institutional allowances that accompany students' portable extramural fellowships, and after covering related student fellow expenditures, we utilized the residual balances to fund programs that benefit current awardees and potential applicants (e.g., offering individualized proposal preparation by two faculty consultants). The Graduate Division also sought to provide an incentive to increase fellowship applications by offering successful applicants with supplemental funding from Graduate Division resources (i.e., the Portable Supplement Program).

Although the Portable Supplement Program did produce a significant increase in successful applications, the availability of this incentive to increase extramural funding has not increased the number of awards over the last decade. At the same time, significant increases in UC fees and non-resident tuition (NRT), substantial decreases in some of the institutional allowances provided by granting agencies, and new restrictions on the uses of the funds have resulted in insufficient residual institutional allowance funds for UCLA. Thus, as of July 1, 2009, the Portable Supplement program will be discontinued. Be assured that we will honor those Portable Supplements that were encumbered in prior years.

Departmental Supplementation of Portable Fellowships

Also effective July 1, 2009, the Graduate Division will call on departments/programs with extramural fellowship awardees to cover: (1) any balance of fees (standard and professional) not paid by the institutional allowance and (2) the full NRT. This means that, for example, if a student is awarded a three-year Ford Foundation Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship and is not a California resident, the department's responsibility would be to provide the balance of fees and NRT.

This new policy is in keeping with the one already in place for students awarded extramural dissertation year fellowships that do not come with an institutional allowance. The department/program or School has been the primary source for fee payment.

I trust that this policy change will not deter UCLA's encouragement of our graduate students to seek out the prestigious extramural fellowships. In the near future, we will be introducing new types of incentives that

will more effectively stimulate growth in our extramural funding. The benefits abound not only in providing funding for the students but also in acknowledging the high quality of UCLA's graduate programs that enroll the awardees.

Quality of Graduate Education Program: Notice of Termination

Last year (November 1, 2007) I notified you of a two-year moratorium on the Graduate Division's Quality of Graduate Education (QGE) supplemental allocation program, effective with the 2008–2009 cycle. I also informed you that during the moratorium, QGE funds would not be competitively awarded but would be allocated. For the 2009-2010 Graduate Division funding cycle, QGE funds will again be allocated but will be reduced by 30% from the 2008-2009 levels.

In the current budget environment, we have determined that it is no longer feasible to operate the QGE as a stand alone program. For this reason, 2009-2010, will be the final year of the program. It is my hope that this early notice of termination will allow for the smoothest possible transition to other funding sources should your program wish to continue the activities initiated under QGE.

New RFP

In early Spring 2009 the Graduate Division will announce a new *Request for Proposals* (RFP) for supplemental funding which will be designed to capture some of the critical elements of *QGE* and the *Portable Supplement Program*. The RFP will also reflect our campus' high priority on diversity. We expect that this new program will be more competitive than previous supplementation programs and we look forward to your feedback when the RFP is available.

While we are disappointed that these separate programs cannot be continued in their present form, we look forward to presenting a new supplementation program that will encourage excellence and innovation while simultaneously addressing campus priorities.

Sincerely,

Claudia Mitchell-Kernan
Vice Chancellor Graduate Studies
Dean, Graduate Division