

# Proposed Revisions to Tuition Fellowship Program

February 14, 2012

# Goals

Historically, the major goals of the tuition fellowship program are:

- Provide tuition support as a part of competitive financial aid packages to graduate assistants so as to attract the most highly qualified graduate assistants.
- Limit support so as to encourage degree completion in a time-efficient manner .

# Current Policy

- All graduate assistants (GTA, GRA, and GA) with a 0.25FTE, minimum stipend of \$612/month, receive tuition support until limits are reached.
- The limit are “minimum program hours + 10” for a master’s degree and “minimum program hours +20” for a doctoral degree.

# Issues with Current Policy

- Minimum living stipends are currently \$612/month, which is lower than any institution surveyed. *It appears that our lower-end living stipends are not competitive with peer institutions.*
- The program limits are sufficiently liberal that there is little financial incentive in many cases for degree completion to occur in a prompt fashion.

## •Sample Comparison to Other Institutions

Full tuition support provided for **minimum** 0.50 FTE

University of Alabama

University of Georgia (40% minimum)

University of Kansas (40% minimum)

University of Maryland

Virginia Tech

University of Arkansas

University of Kentucky

Arizona State University

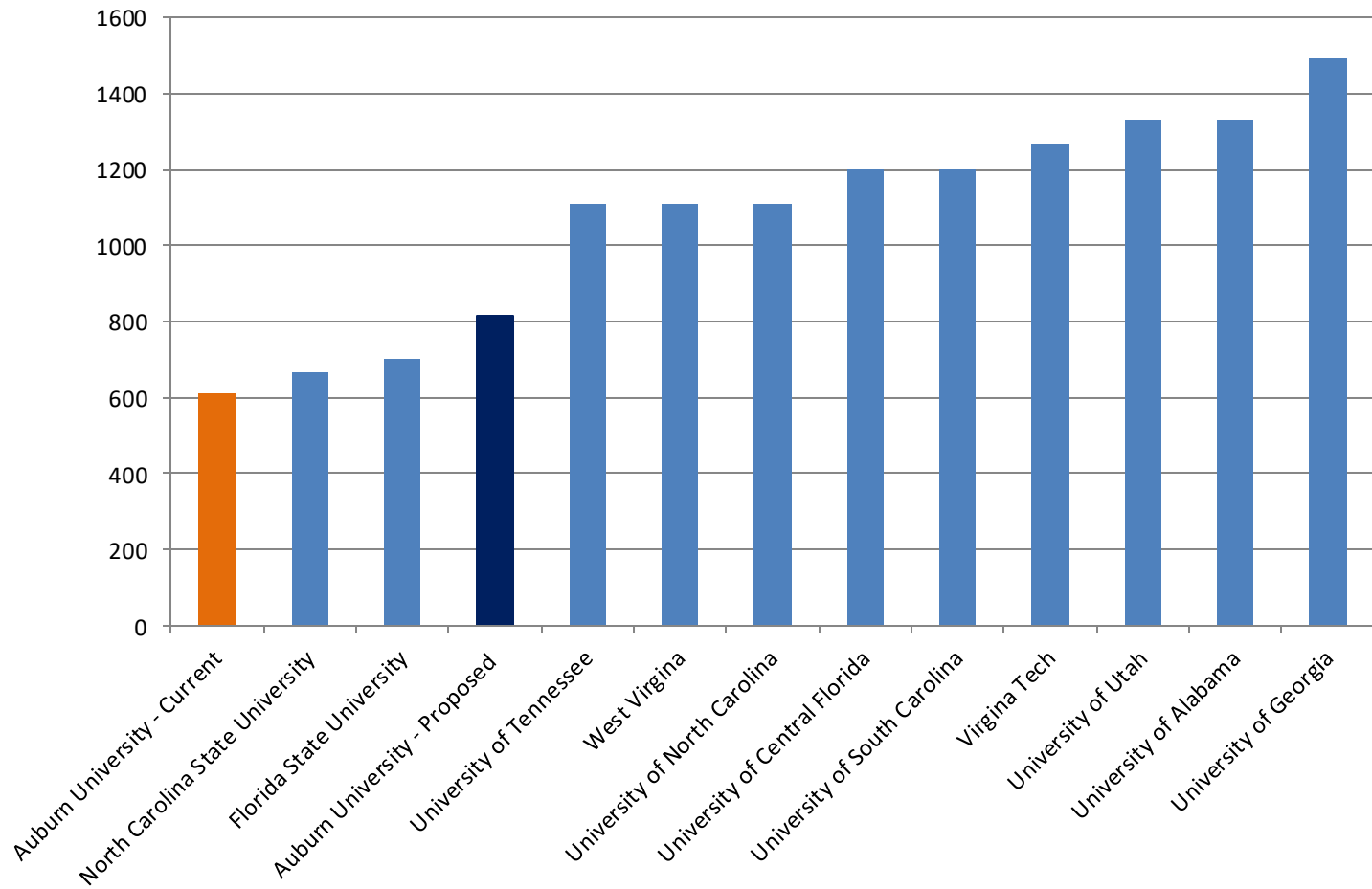
Oklahoma State University

University of Oklahoma

Kansas State University

University of Central Florida

# Minimum Stipend for Full Tuition Waiver at Selected Universities



# **Sample Comparison to Other Institutions**

## **Limits on Tuition Support**

### **University of Arkansas**

Three year limit for master's

Five/eight year limit for doctoral

### **University of Kansas**

Covers only tuition and NO campus fees

Doctoral GRA's for 10 semesters

Master's GRA's not eligible

### **University of Oklahoma**

Covers only the number of hours required for the degree

### **Oklahoma State University**

6 hours of the resident portion of tuition for each Fall/Spring semester and 3 hours for each summer semester

## **University of North Carolina**

Master's – four semesters

Doctoral – 10 semesters

## **Utah State University**

Doctoral only and credits must be on plan of study

70 hours

## **Duke University**

Doctoral only

## **University of Alabama**

Tuition support for GTA, GRA, or GA assigned to a **permanently** budgeted position line designated for that purpose. Tuition for all other graduate assistants must be paid from the source providing the stipend.



# Proposed policy changes and clarifications

- All 0.25 FTE and higher graduate assistants will continue to be classified as in-state residents for the purposes of determining tuition charges.
- Proposed changes are only with regard to **in-state** tuition support program

## **Proposed policy changes and clarifications (continued)**

- University funded in-state tuition support will only be provided to graduate assistants receiving a 0.33 or higher FTE assistantship for each semester during the academic year.
- Those with 0.25-0.32 FTE assistantships will receive 50% in-state tuition.
- Those with  $<0.25$  FTE will not be provided tuition support (as is the case currently).

## Proposed policy changes and clarifications (continued)

- University funded full tuition support will be provided to graduate assistants receiving a 0.25 or higher FTE assistantship during the summer semester.
- For every two FTE on-campus graduate students within a college/school who received full-tuition support from external sources (either self-funded or from external grants), the associated college/school is allowed to provide one 0.25 FTE graduate assistant with full tuition support for up to 110% of the hours required for that student's degree program.

## Proposed policy changes and clarifications (continued)

- University funded in-state tuition support will be limited to 110% of the number of hours required for a graduate degree.
- This tuition support will be provided for **only one** of the following
  - Δ One Master's degree
  - Δ One PhD degree
  - Δ One Master's degree plus one PhD degree within the same or a complementary field.
- Exceptions to this limit can be provided with documentation of the academic need and demonstration of good stewardship of the support already provided, with the approval of the graduate dean.