

UC, 11/16/15



Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 11, 2015
TO: Deans, Department Chairs and Directors
FROM: William J. Karpus
Dean, Graduate School
RE: Delay in Implementation of New Graduate Assistantship Policy

My previous communications indicated that the new assistantship policy as crafted through a deliberative process using a committee chaired by Interim Dean Wendy Crone over the past two years, recommended to and adopted by senior University leadership and handed off to me during the transition, was to be implemented on May 23, 2016. The policy change is a necessary step for UW-Madison to remain competitive in attracting the best possible graduate students and we are committed to educational and research excellence. However, after several weeks of discussion with campus stakeholders, it has become clear to me that campus-wide communication and discussion with individual graduate programs needs to occur in order to implement a policy that does not harm our current graduate students, maintains our competitiveness to attract outstanding new graduate students and does not adversely affect the institutional research mission. Moreover, all graduate programs are currently in the midst of their recruiting season and the operational uncertainty in the policy implementation is introducing impediments to attracting the strongest possible graduate students to UW-Madison.

Therefore in academic year 2016-2017, the assistantship policy will remain in its current form and graduate students will be supported by mechanisms currently in place.

We will follow the time line below to communicate policy details and operationalize the policy to meet the new implementation date.

Amended Timeline:

Fall semester 2015: Implementation Committee meets to finalize communication strategy, plan communication sessions and work through policy specifics. The first communication session with graduate students is scheduled for *December 16, 2:00pm 2244 Chamberlin*

Spring semester 2016: Communication sessions with campus constituents, including faculty and staff. Implementation discussion will be an agenda item at the DGS meeting scheduled for *January 14.*

September 1, 2016: All elements of the policy will be communicated in time for the opening of the 2017 recruitment season.

May 29, 2017: Policy implementation date.

Cc: Sarah Mangelsdorf, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Darrell Bazzell, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
Marsha Mailick, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education

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