



MEMORANDUM, DCD #11, 2010-11

To: Department Chairs, Professor Roberta Fulthorpe, Julie Quenneville, Adriana Koufis,
Helen Morissette, Ada Wong, Pat McKenna

Cc: Professor Rick Halpern, Lesley Lewis

Date: January 10, 2011

From: Vice-Dean, Graduate Education and Program Development, William Gough

Re: Local Graduate Student Funding

For the first time in UTSC's history, income generated from graduate students enrolled in programs based at UTSC is flowing directly to UTSC. This income is in the form of BIUs (Basic Income Units) and tuition. Consequently, we are now required to administer the funding packages for our graduate students who are in the funded cohort. At present the only funded program at UTSC is the PhD in Environmental Science. Other new programs, such as Clinical Psychology, are moving their way through administration and governance, and we anticipate that they will soon be added to our slate of graduate programs.

Funding package minimums are based, at present, on \$15,500 plus tuition and incidental fees (\$16,000 plus for Science departments). As many of you know, funding packages for graduate students can be made up of a combination of any or all of the following: external scholarships, teaching assistantships, research assistantships or stipends, and what is referred to as "UTF", or University of Toronto Fellowship. Often external scholarships, such as NSERC and SSHRC, provide most if not all of the required funding. Up to 210 hours (CUPE limit) of teaching assistantships can count towards a funding package. Research assistantships or stipends typically come from the student's supervisor. The UTF is derived from the funds we receive for students enrolled in our graduate programs. This UTF is used as a means to ensure that each student receives the guaranteed amount of funding.

We have created our own pool of UTF funds and have developed a process for the distribution of funds. Since this responsibility is new for our campus, we examined several different models from downtown faculties, including FAS, Engineering and Medicine. FAS has a centralized UTF distribution mechanism whereas the other two have varying degrees of downloading to their departments. Given the wide variety of disciplines in FAS, there is a substantial difference in the available TA and RA funds among the departments, unlike Engineering and Medicine. An important advantage of a centralized system is that it enables the UTF to be deployed in a way that ensures that Arts and Science meets its obligation to all its graduate students.

Although we have only one department (DPES) involved in this distribution at present, given a similar variety of disciplines at UTSC, we have opted for a centralized approach. This has a number of advantages. First it will provide some flexibility in developing niche, possibly high profile, programs in which enrolment may never be large. It will also allow the fiscal flexibility for programs to grow at an academically sustainable pace. Finally it will mitigate the increased departmental overhead due to graduate programs.