

AGSIP Executive Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 20, 2022

Funding/TA Assignments

- Faculty support the idea that funding should be increased
 - Above the poverty line, after tuition is paid (22,170)
 - Guaranteed annual minimum is 18,000 (though often closer to 22,00) but...
 - Students pay ~7,000 in tuition annually
 - Many students are living below the poverty line
 - There are barriers to increasing funding
 - The department receives a set amount of money per student from the university, which the university gets from the province
 - Psychology is in the low-to-middle range of guaranteed funding compared to other departments
 - Remainder of money comes from TAships and donations
 - **Eventual Goal:** Raise minimum funding above poverty line after tuition (additional 7,500 per student)
 - Actionable items
 - Request information from the department
 - What is the average funding for faculty?
 - How many students are currently below the poverty line (after paying tuition)?
 - How could increasing the minimum funding affect student acceptance rates?
 - More transparency on the TA assignment process – create a schedule of all decisions made
 - What is considered first (e.g., requests, external funding, hours etc.) How does the priority grouping work?
 - Request changes from the department
 - Update the department website that says guaranteed minimum is 18,000 - commit to 22,000 annually
 - Changes to PSYC 100 undergrad TAing – prioritize grad students that need money and experience (where do undergrads fall on the ranking list?)
 - More payment certainty – end of summer is vulnerable time, can payments be pushed sooner? While payments are supposed to be posted Sept 1st this is not reliable, and students face stress over uncertainty and repercussions of any errors when trying to pay rent due Sept 1st
 - Request supervisors ask for a certain percentage of grants to cover graduate student labour (can be integrated at the grant application level) – communal pool so there is no difference based on supervisor funding?
 - Make sure supervisors are aware of options for students (e.g., SWEP, GRF)
 - Request TA ship/funding allocation earlier than mandated by the union

- Guaranteed changes from the department
 - Mark will distribute TA assignments one week earlier next year – has to be after OGS announcements (May)
 - Proctor pool was added this year for additional opportunities
- Next Steps
 - Discuss at graduate committee meeting, prepare motion for a department meeting
 - Collaboration with SGS actions (ie. Letter writing campaign)
- Options currently available to students
 - SWEP (Fall due September 15, Winter due not sure)
 - Hire grad students as research assistants
 - Supervisor pays ¼ the amount applied for
 - Based on parents' income for first 6 years after leaving high school
 - GRF
 - Goes through supervisor

Changes to AGSIP Lounge

- Projector/smart board for conference room
 - Going to create online booking system for grad students to use the room
 - Grad students get priority
 - Can be used for practicing presentations, student meetings etc.
- New fridge
- 1-2 whiteboards for the main lounge, (whiteboards for individual rooms)
- New art, storage boxes, pillows, and décor
- Boot mat and coat rack or wall hooks for entryway
- Umbrella sharing system (take when needed, bring back next day)
- Asking faculty to donate any extra items they have but do not need

Bulletin Board

- Staff directory (QR code)
- Meeting minutes (QR code)
- New social events
- Housing board – name and contact info, used for those looking or leaving

Future social events

- Events in the AGSIP lounge
 - Board game night
 - Paint your own art (can use as lounge decorations)
 - Movie night
- Faculty-student BBQ at Dean Tripp's house – October 23rd is a good date for students
 - AGSIP will arrange buses for transportation
- Homecoming event for students: backyard party or sports game
- Open mic night at the grad club – spring event
- Survey will be distributed to gauge interest and availability