

October 26, 2022

MEMO:

From: Jim Spencer, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School  
Roy Haggerty, Provost  
To: Faculty and Graduate Students  
Cc: Graduate Assistantship Management Implementation Working Group

*Re: Institutional Graduate Assistantship Allocations Plan for LSU*

In the Fall of 2021, Interim Provost and Interim CFO asked Jim Spencer to Chair a newly-formed LSU Graduate Assistant Management (GAM) Committee – additionally comprised of 2 College Deans, 2 Associate Deans (1 of an academic college and 1 of the Graduate School) and representatives of Office of Sponsored Projects, Human Resources Management, Budget and Planning, Accounting Services, and Information Technology Services - to assess institutional data and outline a new fiscal management system for the allocation of Graduate Assistants supported on unrestricted funds. The GAM Committee met throughout the academic year and submitted an outline of recommendations in March 2022.

At the beginning of the 2022-23 academic year, Provost Haggerty made the decision that the plan should be operationalized along a timeline to be implemented for Fiscal Year 2024, which begins July 1, 2023. Though much of the plan will come go in to effect on July 1, some parts of the plan will take a small number of years to be phased in.

### **The Broader Vision of Deliberate Investment in Graduate Education at LSU**

Overall, we envision a more deliberate model for doctoral education (i.e., PhD and other terminal degrees such as the MFA) at LSU. Among the rationales for a stronger and more predictable capacity to allocate graduate resources strategically are the following:

LSU's academic reputation will rise or fall based on its results in doctoral education and the related research, scholarship, and creative activity associated with it;

LSU currently spends substantial financial resources on graduate assistantships (~\$40 million annually in unrestricted institutional funding), but is doing so without intentional deliberations on the extent to which these annual investments are advancing the institutional goals of LSU;

To attract the best graduate students, LSU should have a standard baseline financial package for graduate stipends that is livable and competitive with our graduate peer institutions;

Increasing the total financial support for doctoral education can be a focus once we have a system in place that incentivizes scholarly excellence and other strategic goals and a system that can track effectiveness at achieving these goals;

An essential part of achieving this level of strategic investment in doctoral education will require periodic review of outcomes related to the allocation of Graduate Assistantships.

## Goals

**stipends.** It will, however, **require reducing the total number of GA positions by 260** from its Fall 2016-2020 average or approximately



a) that ineligible programs can fund graduate student stipends without tuition waivers.