Based on the discussion at the April 28 2014 Chairs-Dean meeting, the Office for Research (O4R) will implement the following practice regarding budgeting for graduate research assistant stipends, grant and contract proposal budgets:

Graduate research assistants (GRAs) will be budgeted as Level II (PhD) students. **For projects beginning in Academic Year 2014, half-time (20 hrs/week) GRAs will budget at $995 biweekly stipend.** This extrapolates to $2,156/month and $25,872/year ($19,404 for a 9-month appointment). Quarter-time appointments will of course budget at one-half those amounts.

These stipends will increase at a 3% inflation factor in subsequent years.

In situations where sponsor rules and guidelines cap grad assistant costs at lower amounts, O4R will budget within the required cap.

It is further resolved that these budgeted stipends do not reflect the ACTUAL stipends that will accrue to GRAs on funded projects; actual stipends will be determined by Unit policy, and implemented by the Fiscal Officers (FOs) and Grant Program Managers (GPMs), in consultation with chairs.

As stated, this practice will help insure that we don’t under-budget for graduate assistant costs, and that possible under-estimations of graduate fringe and tuition costs are offset. It will also result in a consistent, College-wide practice that will simplify the budget process and reduce uncertainty.