

**Fellowship and Financial Services Townhall**  
**Monday, May 5, 2014**

**FFS Overview:**

1. Three Values of FFS, what the department strives for
  - a. **Context:** understanding the department and/or student perspective. Listening to their story.
  - b. **Consistency:** with policies, procedures, and meeting needs on a regular basis. They want all departments to get the same information every time.
  - c. **Collaboration:** this is joint governance; all departments and units are interconnected and rely on each other. Success depends on collaboration and communication.
  
2. Top Priority
  - a. Automation (moving all processes online). They hear time and time again that it is a top priority for the departments so they are moving towards automation. They do not have a timeline yet but they are working on it.

**Questions from Grad Advisors (see powerpoint):**

1. 2014-15 Fee Increase
  - a. An official announcement has not been made yet but they do not anticipate a fee increase. Health Insurance is expected to increase 14.16%. Official announcement will be made soon.
  
2. Publishing 2014-15 Fees
  - a. Grad Division will publish the new fee documents once the Registrar's Office publishes the fees on their site.
  
3. Supplemental Allocations
  - a. There is no supplemental allocations as of yet but if they are able to offer more it will be announced in August.
  
4. GSRM rule; can't work over 25% or hold FLAS
  - a. The purpose of the GSRM financial support is to help those who are unsupported. Holding a position of FLAS is not unsupported. Plus, TAing while holding a GSRM is a lot of work.

- b. A lot of GSRM students are not submitting their final papers at the end. The belief is that the work takes away from their mentorship and research.
  - c. Exceptions will be considered if working as a GSR in a related area or the FLAS is related to the research.
- 5. Intercampus exchange or Semester Courses not showing on study list, caused an issue for fee remissions.
  - a. FFS is working with Academic Services to find out which students are participating in Intercampus exchange prior to the unit audit for remissions.
  - b. Academic Services and the Registrar's Office are discussing solutions for showing semester courses on the study list.
- 6. International Student Recruitment Reimbursements
  - a. Departments may submit exceptions if they want to reimburse airfare for a student who travels from an international location to UCLA directly (since the manual states that GD will only reimburse from a US entry point to UCLA).
- 7. Over 25% Appointments while on fellowship
  - a. Grad Division approves about 80% of these now. It is important for Grad Division to confirm that the position will not affect the students' academic progress.
- 8. Special Reader Audits, can a department request a blanket exception to allow students to be special readers for undergraduate classes? A lot of graduate students are hired to work for classes they have not taken (either took something similar or have experience).
  - a. A blanket exception will not be allowed but FFS will work with a department if they want to submit one exception with a list of students for a given quarter.
- 9. Childbirth Accommodation Funding, a problem calculating how much the department is responsible for.
  - a. Quarterly working hours can be found here:  
<http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/appm/appmintro.htm>
  - b. A calculation form will be posted on the GD site to help determine cost responsibility.
- 10. Will Jasmine remain operational
  - a. Yes, as of now Jasmine will be around for at least 2-3 more years.

## **Announcements**

1. Extramural Matching Funds (this was previously discussed at the fall meeting with the Chairs)
  - a. For extramural fellowships that do not cover fees or pay only partial fees (i.e. NSF, other national organizations), the Graduate Division will cover 50% of the fees.
  - b. If you know of extramural awards for 1415 please let Ana know.