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To: Division of Academic Affairs

From: Pinku Mukherjee
Interim Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

Jennifer Troyer
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

John Daniels
Vice Chancellor for Research

Re: GASP/MTART

Dear Colleagues,

Nearly 20 years ago, UNC Charlotte began the Graduate Assistant Support Plan (GASP) to advance research and innovation.

In 2022, the Master's TA Resident Tuition (MTART) program was added as an additional assistance tool. With your support, the programs have grown exponentially, helping the University recruit and support outstanding, top-tier graduate students.

While this growth has brought wonderful additions to our research program, it has also, unfortunately, brought increased costs and financial pressure that the Graduate School cannot sustain in perpetuity without some important changes. Working together with colleagues across our respective divisions and the Division of Business Affairs, we have developed a strategy to ensure the program is financially secure in the years ahead.

As you complete the important work of recruiting graduate students to our programs, please keep the following information and changes in mind:

- 1) **Fixed Budgets:** The Graduate School provided each graduate program with a fixed budget for GASP/MTART funding beginning this year. Program directors are encouraged to allocate the funding in a way that maximizes the number of students funded.
- 2) **Summer Fellowships:** The Graduate School will only provide summer research fellowships for Ph.D./Ed.D. students and master's student grants if funding is available.
- 3) **Non-Resident Tuition on Grants:** For all grant-funded doctoral research assistants, the grant budget must include the full non-resident tuition and health insurance costs, where the funding agency allows, effective July 1, 2024. However, grants written before that day may also include this change, and this support would be appreciated. If the PI hires a doctoral student who has North Carolina residency, the PI can reallocate the difference between non-resident and resident tuition to other budget categories.
- 4) **Institutionally Funded Lines:** For all *new* institutionally funded research assistant (RA) and teaching assistant (TA) lines, the college/department will need to budget full GASP/MTART when hiring additional (in excess of the current Graduate School allocation) full-time graduate assistants from their college/departmental funds. As funding becomes available, priority will be given to providing GASP/MTART to these additional institutionally funded TAs and RAs.

If you would like additional background information on GASP/MTART funding and these changes, [please review this Q&A](#). Additionally, we have established three virtual meetings for you to ask any questions you may have. They will be held on March 13, 20 and 21. Information and registration are [available here](#).

Continued investment in the highest quality graduate students is essential as the University moves toward R1 status. The actions outlined here, along with your support, will enable us to sustain this important funding.
