

School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Continuous Enrollment Policy for Students in Ph.D. Programs

Funding Plan

September 16, 2009

Statement of Commitment

The School of Music, Theatre & Dance endorses the goals of, and expected outcomes arising from the implementation of, the University's new Continuous Enrollment Policy for students in Ph.D. programs. The School will develop new, or alter existing, internal policies and procedures to respond to any required changes, and will work to ensure the success of this new Policy. In particular, the School will create a fellowship program to provide tuition-only fellowships to students making satisfactory academic progress who will be required to register under the new policy but who would not have registered under current practice.

Determining Satisfactory Progress

Satisfactory progress is determined by the individual advisor in consultation with the Associate Dean for graduate Studies. Regular contact and reporting of activities between candidate and advisor is essential.

Candidates receive an annual communication from the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies after consultation with the individual advisors.

Unsatisfactory progress is communicated from the advisor to the candidate with a copy of the letter of notification sent to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

Estimates of Increased Terms of Registration

Based on current enrollment and historical trends, we would expect to see an additional 12 to 16 terms of registration in an academic year. To gauge the annual financial impact at implementation, we expect increased costs of between \$54,000 and \$72,000 using an assumed tuition rate of \$4,500 per term. This rate reflects the University's plan to recommend a reduction in the candidacy tuition rate proportional to the overall increase in enrollment created by the policy change, so that the implementation is revenue-neutral.

Identification of Resources

Resources to apply to these increased costs come from three sources. Under the assumptions above, we expect to realize the following: 1) a recurring increase in the School's General Fund budget allocation of between \$56,000 and \$72,000 due to the activity-based components of the General Fund budget model; 2) approximately \$12,000 from savings arising from the School's current levels of support for registered candidates due to the decrease in the candidacy tuition rate; and 3) if, needed, an allocation from a new Rackham tuition fellowship program providing support for the registration changes arising from the policy change. This amounts to an annual total of between \$83,000 and \$99,000 in resources to cover the above costs, sufficient both at the time of implementation and on a continuing basis thereafter.

Description of Process

The School of Music, Theatre & Dance currently budgets all candidate tuition support centrally. The Associate Dean for Graduate Studies is responsible for making graduate student appointments, determining fellowship awards, and matching them to the variously available budget lines. Additional functionality will be designed into the current tracking spreadsheet to identify and track the costs and budget necessary to support this program. Students in the School's Ph.D. program will be considered first for support through the School's GSI and fellowship opportunities, and will be encouraged to seek out support from existing University sources such as Rackham or appropriate teaching opportunities in other units. Ph.D. students making satisfactory academic progress who are unable to secure other funding support for a term will continue to be funded by the School, using the existing funding criteria.

Leaves of Absence

Continuous GSA appointments are not guaranteed from year to year, but must be applied for annually. A leave of absence will result in a termination of commitment, but the student will again be considered for GSA appointments on an ad-hoc basis upon their return to active study.