



2500 MU Student Center
Columbia, MO 65211
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January 27, 2016

Dear Graduate and Professional Students,

Today, interim Chancellor Dr. Hank Foley announced the university's plan to increase the minimum graduate student employee's annual stipend (9 month, 0.5 FTE, PhD) to \$15,000 in Summer 2016 and \$18,000 in Summer 2017. Increasing the minimum stipend to \$18,000 was a recommendation made just this month by the Graduate Student Experience (GSE) Task Force in their [final report](#).

The Graduate Professional Council (GPC) commends the university for implementing the recommendation a full two years ahead of the task force's schedule and paying for the increases with centralized funds, which ensures that departments most in need are not overburdened.

Achievements such as this one are the result of graduate and professional students who step outside of their classrooms and labs to advocate for themselves, faculty who stand by our side, and administrators who listen to our needs and act.

Below is an excerpt from Dr. Foley's State of the University Address given this afternoon:

"We want always to be among the group of top-flight land-grant universities. But we cannot be if we don't take care of our graduate students. We have had a minimum stipend for years that is well below the average of such great schools. Today, we are going to change that.

Beginning July 1, 2016, our minimum stipend will rise by \$3,000 to come up to \$15,000. Then, in the next year, beginning July 1, 2017, we will add another \$3,000 to bring our minimum stipend up to \$18,000. The following year, we may raise the minimum again, as needed, to remain competitive with the best schools in the country.

Doing this will not be easy. We will have to forgo other things. It's a matter of priorities. How we treat these important researchers and educators says more about our real values than any rhetoric."

GPC looks forward to continuing to work closely with the administration, faculty, and graduate-professional student organizations to fulfill the remaining recommendations of the GSE Task Force as well as other needed changes that benefit graduate and professional students on our campus.

We thank each and every member of the Mizzou community who has worked tirelessly to make this change a reality.

Sincerely,
[The GPC Executive Board](#)

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