

September 7, 2021

Mr. Frederick W. Stoss  
Faculty Senate Chair  
Office of University Shared Governance  
543 Capen Hall  
North Campus

Dear Faculty Senate Chair Stoss:

Thank you for forwarding the to the Faculty Senate's **Resolution Supporting PhD Stipends** (May 13, 2021).

As you know, in fall 2019, UB launched the PhD Excellence Initiative to enhance the quality of doctoral education across our university. This initiative seeks to ensure UB's PhD programs remain among the strongest in the world by addressing issues related to student recruitment, enhancing diversity, improving retention and time-to-degree, and providing exceptional pedagogical and research training that ensure strong program outcomes.

In 2019, the academic deans established competitive PhD minimum stipends across the campus, and academic units agreed to evaluate how they could further support PhD education by assuming the cost of student fees for full-time funded PhD students. As we continue our focus on PhD education and excellence, beginning this fall, the university is centrally funding broad-based fees for full-time funded PhD students. This decision closely aligns with our university goal of being recognized among the Top 25 public research universities in the nation.

Under Provost Weber's leadership, to build further on the progress we have made on the PhD Excellence Initiative, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School, Graham Hammill, will lead a consultative process with the campus community to define the future of PhD education at UB that aligns with our university's goal of being a Top 25 public research university. The university and academic units will continue to align our resources consistent with the goals and performance measures established through this process rather than revert to historical levels from 2019-20.

I, along with Provost Weber, commend the Faculty Senate for its efforts to enhance UB's PhD programs and students' success in them. The steps taken to date address the spirit of the vision of excellence that we share with the Faculty Senate for graduate education at UB.

Sincerely,

  
Satish K. Tripathi  
President

xc: Dr. A. Scott Weber, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs