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MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. William McDaniel
President, University Faculty Senate

From: Dr. Nancy Kason Poulson 
Chair, University Graduate Programs Committee
Chair, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Graduate Programs Committee

Date: 20 November 2012

RE: Faculty Governance in the Revision of Tuition Benefits Policy for Graduate Students

Bill:

I would like to frame my remarks noting that they reflect my experience as Chair of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Graduate Programs Committee, as Chair of the University Graduate Programs Committee, and as a Member of the University Graduate Council.

The following is a summary of the remarks I gave at Steering regarding the way in which faculty were consulted by the Graduate College during the past year:

2/28/2012: the Graduate College widely distributed the first draft of the revision

3/16/2012: that draft was discussed at the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Graduate Programs Committee

4/24/2012: the Graduate College widely distributed the second draft of the revision

4/26/2012: that draft was discussed at the Academic Advising Committee meeting

8/9/2012: I met personally with Dean Rosson to go over specific issues that were raised in the DFS College of Arts and Letters Graduate Programs Committee

8/22/2012: the proposed changes were discussed at the joint meeting of the University Graduate Programs Committee and the University Graduate Council

8/31/2012: the proposed changes were again discussed at the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Graduate Programs Committee

9/19/2012: Dean Rosson was given memos from the Graduate and Professional Student Association and the College of Engineering regarding the proposed changes

9/21/2012: the proposed changes were again discussed at the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Graduate Programs Committee
10/17/2012: the proposed changes were again discussed at the University Graduate Council
11/14/2012: a third draft was distributed to the University Graduate Council
11/14/2012: I distributed that third draft via email to the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Graduate Programs Committee and notified them that it would be on Steering's agenda on 11/20/2012

As I mentioned during Steering, I think that Dean Rosson has gone out of his way to consult with a wide spectrum of departments/units and colleges during the past year to seek input on how the Tuition Benefits Policy might be revised. In my opinion, although there may be some units adversely affected, the revised policy articulates the parameters of the benefits more precisely and more clearly, and ensures that the benefits are equitably applied across the university.