Admissions and Financial Aid
for Assistant and Associate Deans:
Financial Aid

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Financial Aid Overview

- Assistantships
- Fellowships
- Loans
Assistantships

• Research
• Teaching
• “Graduate Assistantships”
Theory of Assistantships

• “Financial Aid”
• “Professional Development”
• At MU, assistantships usually carry full tuition benefit for students
  – Complications of “Graduate Tuition Support Program” (fee waivers)
• The Rights of Graduate Assistantships
  – Treated as “faculty” at MU
  – The Importance of the “offer letter”
Research Assistantships

• Who pays stipend?
  – What are origins of stipend, and why would it matter?
  – Do assistantships carry tuition benefits?
• What is the “FTE”?
• How many hours responsible?
• Duration of the assistantship
  – How much flexibility should PIs retain in terms of length of offer?
Teaching Assistantships

• “TA” vs. “GI”
• Who pays stipend?
• Who pays tuition?
• FTE: How many courses, how many “hours”? 
Graduate Assistantships

• Should there be graduate assistantships apart from research and teaching?
• Can administrative work be linked to the professional development of students?
• Competition with administrative/clerical staff
Fellowships

• Financial Aid
• Recruiting Tool
• External Fellowships
• Internal Fellowships
External Fellowships

• NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
• Training grants as “fellowships.”
• Ford Foundation; Soros Foundation, etc.
Supplemental Fellowships

• Small amount of money given to departments on competitive basis

• Supplement assistantship/departmental fellowship for first year
University Fellowships

- From endowments/general operating funds
- Individuals nominated by departments
- Judged on individual basis
- Different competitions for PhD and Master’s
- Available funds for underrepresented students
Additional Internal Fellowships

- Peace Corps Fellowship Program
- Bies Travel Scholarship
- Other research and presentation travel assistance
  - Also assistance provided by graduate student organizations
Loans

• At MU, Federal loans handled by Financial Aid office
• Cashier’s Office offers short term loans
Questions?

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