Graduate Compensation and Benefits Committee (GCBC) Final Report 2011-2012

- **Actions completed by GCBC this year**
  - Drafting of the ‘Proposal for the Annual Review of Graduate Student Stipends’
    - A proposed protocol for establishing a yearly review of graduate student stipends involving four main groups: GCBC, Human Resources, the Office of Academic Affairs, and the Graduate School
    - First review to begin in the Autumn Semester 2012
  - Establish graduate student participation in the annual Hidden Benefits Fair
    - Graduate students with appointments are eligible for many of the benefits that staff have. Used the established Hidden Benefits Fair, run by University Staff Advisory Committee, to include graduate students and make them aware of these perks.
    - Student Wellness Center and Student Health Insurance participated in the Fair to help draw grad students.

- **Issues of discussion (to be continued?)**
  - Parking privatization proposal
    - GCBC had multiple discussions concerning the University’s proposed parking privatization. These were discussed at the Steering Committee meeting on Thursday March 1st, 2012. To re-cap, these are the issues GCBC thought most impacted graduate students:
      - CABS services/funding—GCBC was concerned with decreasing CABS services and/or funding. We were informed that CABS funding will continue to be funded at current levels from the general fund.
      - Proposed price increases and their impacts on graduate students. Graduate students with appointments already pay a larger proportion of our salaries to parking (specifically B parking) than other staff. Will these price increases eventually invalidate the strides we have made on graduate student stipends via the new review process? Would it be feasible to introduce some sort of reduced price increases for graduate students?
      - Safety—the University has assured us that security and safety will still be handled internally. As T&P members are often the first to see suspicious activity in lots/garages, how will that be communicated to University security? Overall, graduate students find it very important to have a secure place to park on the weekends and at night, times when these areas are not as frequented.
        - Will the current policy of allowing all passes to park in any surface lot space on the weekends and after 4PM on weekdays stand?
      - Fair use of funds received from privatization—currently $100 million has been set aside for 1st year undergraduate scholarships, but no funds (that we are aware of) have thus far been promised for graduate student scholarships/fellowships.
    - Faculty senator representation at GCBC
      - Two members of GCBC are supposed to be faculty, specifically, University Senators
This year, there were 2 appointed members. One member was not able to physically make meetings, but did participate in email discussions and gave insight. The other faculty member did not participate.
  o This is something we would greatly like to remedy in the future, faculty input will be vital as the stipend review process becomes established.
  o At the May 4th, 2012 meeting GCBC elected it’s chair for the 2012-2013 year. The GCBC chair-elect is Josh Sadvari, a graduate student in the Anthropology Department.

Future plans for GCBC
  o Once the health insurance plans are finalized for the coming years, examine these as we did stipend levels
    ▪ Are OSU graduate students getting similar health benefits as graduate students at our peer institutions?
    ▪ Possibly establish a review process for insurance, similar to that for stipends?
    ▪ Tech Columbus has shown interest in working with GCBC to create a better database of the benefits we (and other staff) receive. Could GCBC establish a sub-committee to work on this issue in the 2012-13 year?