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SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

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Policy for Allocating Graduate Assistantships in GPES

1. Applicants are ranked by GPA from ESF or previous institutions, GREs, publications, prior graduate degrees (i.e. PhD students have priority over MS students; MPS students are lowest priority), progress towards degree completion, and qualifications for the given teaching assignment. We ask MPs to rank their students and to address point 5, below.
2. Applicants can be offered Graduate Assistantships (GA) support in future years if they have support (e.g. Fulbright, NSF, EPA) for the coming year.
3. The maximum number of semesters of GA support from all sources (GPES and the major professor's home department) is 6 for a PhD and 4 for a MS. A semester is a full GA (20 hours/week); two half-GA positions (10 hours/week) counts as one full position. A student who does an MS at ESF and then a PhD starts counting again with the PhD and is not disadvantaged compared to new PhDs.
4. Instructors need to be satisfied with the students who are assigned to assist in their courses. We give the instructors a proposed slate of GA's to review. Instructors are asked to provide reviews of their GA's at the end of each semester.
5. Major professors for GPES students awarded GAs should describe their plans for developing other sources of support for those students. GPES support is typically offered for only one semester per year, with the expectation that the MP will have research support or departmental GA support for the other semester.
6. An equitable distribution of GA lines across the Areas of Study within GPES is a goal. Distribution among major professors is also a consideration. We don't expect to support multiple students for a single professor. This causes confusion in the case that a prior recruit is continued for funding (see #1).
7. Two semesters of GA support (commonly in Chemistry, where the competition is less) will be awarded to students (current or incoming) of the current GPES Director. These students will be renewed (see # 8 below) in future years not to exceed the number of years of service of the GPES Director.
8. To the extent possible, assistantships awarded to incoming students will be renewed in subsequent years. This is important because students recruited with funding need to know whether they can count on continued funding in future years. Because GA's are limited, excellent performance is essential to continuance.

This document was initially drafted by Dave Johnson after serving as GPES Director.

Revised on 2/3/11 and 2/17/11 by the GPES Program Committee and Ruth Yanai.

Revised by Ruth Yanai and Stewart Diemont 5/31/12, approved 6/1/12 by the GPES Committee.

Revised to clarify current procedures by Ruth Yanai, approved 4/2/15 by the GPES Committee.

Revised to add a policy for students added by the GPES Director in the event of turnover.

Revised to add a policy to commit funding for future years, approved 9/4/15 by the Committee