

## REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: Graduate Council

DATE: October 4, 2021

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Graduate Council met on 08/20/21 and 09/17/21 for discussion and approval of the following:

1. Disestablishment of the PSM in Medical Physics (no enrollment)
2. Disestablishment of MS in Natural Science for Teachers (no enrollment)
3. Modification to MA and PhD curricula of Rochan GIDP in Persian and Iranian Studies to better reflect student and faculty interests
4. Proposal to create a path for MS students in excess of 6 years hiatus to return and complete their degree – <https://grad.arizona.edu/gsas/degree-requirements/masters-degrees#time-limitation>

The Dean's report on 08/20/21 presented an overview of the recent financial survey of graduate students, which was further discussed in detail on 09/17/21. Critical findings include:

1. 82% are stressed about their financial situation with 66% worried about paying monthly expenses
2. 55% cannot raise \$1,000 in the event of a financial emergency
3. 36% took additional student loans since matriculation, 40% neglected academic work due to finances, 38% considered dropping out of school, **25% had to use a food bank or pantry**, 57% borrowed money from a friend or relative, 52% had to forgo medical care, 46% are working a second job outside of GA position which often conflicts with GA duties.

One outcome is that Dean Carnie will recommend a minimum stipend of \$20,000 for 9 month GA positions (prorated) **in all colleges beginning in FY2023**. Provost Folks has already issued notification to college Deans.

### GOALS:

Graduate Council meets again on Oct. 15 to consider additional program proposals.