



GSA Bill #25

A bill approving a survey on graduate student stipends

1           **WHEREAS**, Article III – Section 1 of the GSA Bylaws stipulates that “The Committee  
2 for Academic Affairs shall identify and advocate on behalf of graduate students regarding any  
3 issues pertaining to academic affairs, including, but not limited to, access to facilities and funding  
4 for research, the faculty graduate student mentoring relationship, and academic policies pertaining  
5 to graduate education and teaching for graduate students”; and,

6           **WHEREAS**, a survey of graduate student stipends would provide crucial information in  
7 advocating and determining proper policy actions; and,

8           **WHEREAS**, the Committee for Academic Affairs has submitted a draft of this survey.

9           **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED**, that the survey is approved by the GSA for  
10 distribution to the graduate student body.

Submitted by	Committee for Academic Affairs	DATE	02/02/2017
Referred to	Assembly	DATE	02/02/2017
Committee action	Not applicable	DATE	
Floor action	Adopted by voice vote	DATE	02/07/2017
Presidential Signature	(s) President Correas	DATE	02/08/2017



1. Do you currently have an assistantship?

- a. Yes
- b. No

*[If Respondent selects No, it will take them to a screen thanking them, but stating the current survey is regarding assistantships]*

**Responsibilities:**

2. How would you describe the primary responsibilities of your assistantship? (Check all that apply).

- a. Research (full-time)
- b. Teaching (full-time)
- c. Both (half research- half teach)
- c. Other

*[If Respondent selects Both on Q2, he/she must answer to both research and teaching questions]*

*[If Respondent selects Research on Q2]*

3. Referring to the research component of your assistantship, what are your primary tasks? (Select up to X)

- a. Finding an innovative research topic and writing proposal
- b. Collecting/Creating Data/ Conducting Experiments in the Lab
- c. Analyzing Data
- d. Authoring/Co-authoring Papers
- e. Authoring/Co-authoring Grant Proposals
- f. Managing Undergraduate Students on the Project
- g. Other [ please specify, .....]

*[If Respondent selects Teaching on Q2]*

4. Referring to the teaching component of your assistantship, how would you describe your teaching responsibilities? (Check all that apply)

- a. Course instructor
- b. Lab instructor
- c. Tutoring
- d. Grading

4a. On average, how many courses/labs are your responsible to teach or grade each semester as teaching assistant?

- a. One
- b. Two
- c. More than two



4b. What is the level of the course(s) or lab(s) you teach or grade for?

- a. Undergraduate
- b. Graduate
- c. Undergraduate & Graduate

4c. In total, how many students are currently in your course(s) or lab(s)?

- a. Less than 15
- b. 15-30
- c. 30-50
- d. More than 50

*[If Respondent selects Other on Q2]*

5. Referring to the “other” component of your assistantship, please describe up to 3 of your primary tasks.

6. How many hours per week are you required to work according to your assistantship contract?

- a. 10 hours per week
- b. 20 hours per week
- c. 40 hours per week

7. Excluding time spent attending class, studying, and classwork, on average, how many hours per week do you actually work for your assistantship?

- a. 10 hours per week
- b. 20 hours per week
- c. 40 hours per week
- d. More than 40 hours per week

8. How confident are you that you will be provided with a graduate assistant contract for the next semester?

- a. Very confident
- b. Somewhat confident
- c. A little confident
- d. Not at all confident

### **Stipend:**

9. Excluding money paid directly for tuition, fees, and insurance, what is the stipend you receive, before taxes, for your assistantship? Please enter the amount and select the appropriate period of time.



\_\_\_\_\_per

- a. Month
- b. Semester
- c. Academic year

10. Excluding tuition and health insurance, does your assistantship pay for any of your university fees?

- a. Yes, it pays for all of my university fees
- b. Yes, it pays for some portion of my university fees
- c. No, it does not pay for any of my university fees
- d. Don't know

11. If you choose to have student health insurance through UNL, does your assistantship pay for your student health insurance?

- a. Yes, it pays for all of my student health insurance
- b. Yes, it pays for some portion of my student health insurance
- c. No, it does not pay for any of my student health insurance
- d. Don't know
- e. I choose to not have student health insurance through UNL

12. Where does the funding for your assistantship come from? (Check all that apply)

- a. General funding for assistantships from my department
- b. Scholarship or fellowship
- c. The specific project/grant I am assigned to
- d. from the Start-up funding of the professor I work for,
- e. The professor I work for, but I am unsure where the funds originated
- f. I don't know where the funds come from
- g. Another source not listed, please specify, \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you have access to receive assistantship funding in the summer?

- a. Yes, summer funding is included as part of my assistantship
- b. Summer funding is available if I want it
- c. It is not included in my assistantship, but my advisor may provide
- d. I can apply for summer funding, but it is competitive
- e. I do not have access to funding for the summer
- f. Don't Know

### **Personal Finances:**

14. Are you able to pay for basic cost of living expenses on your stipend alone?

- a. Yes
- b. No



15. If you have received an assistantship for multiple semesters/years, has the amount of your stipend increased over time?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. This is my first semester/year for receiving an assistantship
- d. Don't know

[If Respondent says Yes to Q15]

15a. Has the increase in your stipend had a noticeable impact on your ability to pay for your basic cost of living needs?

- a. Yes
- b. No

16. Have you had to take out loans to supplement your stipend income (for basic cost of living expenses)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

17. Are you receiving SNAP (i.e., food stamps) or other government provided benefits?

- a. Yes
- b. No

18. Since you have been a graduate student at UNL have your housing costs (i.e., rent) increased over time?

- a. Yes
- b. No

19. Are you financially responsible for more people than just yourself (i.e., spouse/partner, children, etc.)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

[If Respondent selects Yes to Q21]

20a. Including yourself, how many people are you financially responsible for?

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Demographics:**

20. What is your department?

Suggest a drop down menu

21. Are you currently a Master's or Ph.D. student?

- a. Master's



b. Ph.D.

22. What is your status as a graduate student?

- a. Full-time
- b. Part-time

23. What year are you in your program?

- a. 1st
- b. 2nd
- c. 3rd
- d. 4th
- e. 5th or later

24. Are you an international student?

- a. Yes
- b. No

25. What is your gender?

- a. Female
- b. Male
- c. Non-binary/third gender
- d. Prefer not to say

26. What is your age?

\_\_\_\_\_