**Revised Graduate Tuition Scholarship Policy** (As approved by Provost’s Council, August 26, 2015)

**Context:**

Many graduate students receive graduate assistantships from outside their home college. Current (as of July 2015) ISU policy and practice requires the home college of the student to be responsible for the tuition scholarship that accompanies the assistantship stipend (although it is expected then when allowed by external contracts and grants, such funding sources for appointments will also fund the associated tuition scholarship). While the home college may negotiate the tuition scholarship, the appointing unit is under no obligation to pay part or all of the scholarship. Frequently the home college is totally unaware of outside assistantships until the signed letter of intent is received.

These circumstances make it difficult for colleges and departments to accurately predict revenues and control costs for graduate student scholarships. Expected tuition revenue is paid out in scholarships. When a non-resident student obtains an assistantship outside their home college, the home college also loses the differential between non-resident and resident tuition.

This issue has been discussed by the Associate Deans for Graduate Programs on several occasions. Associate Provost Holger presented the issue to the Provost’s Council during its March 25, 2015 meeting. Following a discussion, Senior Vice President and Provost Wickert referred the matter back to the Associate Deans for Graduate Programs with a request that the ADGP group develop a policy proposal that the Provost Council could consider at its next meeting.

The following revised policy is the result of subsequent discussion among the associate deans for graduate programs and the Provost’s Council. It was adopted by the Provost’s Council on August 26, 2015 with the understanding that a few language modifications would be made to indicate the intent that external funding sources are expected to fund tuition scholarships whenever possible, and with the recognition that units outside the academic division would need to increase their allocated cost allocations to fund tuition scholarships for graduate assistant appointees.

**Revised Policy: Graduate Tuition Scholarships**

When graduate assistantships are funded by sources external to the university that consider tuition scholarships to be allowable costs, it is expected that tuition scholarships for appointees will be funded by those sources unless other explicit prior arrangements have been made. In all other situations, graduate tuition scholarships awarded to PhD students with graduate assistantships are the responsibility of the home college of the student regardless of the appointing unit (as is the case currently). Graduate tuition scholarships awarded to master’s degree seeking students who are appointed outside their home college are normally paid by the appointing unit, but in specific cases the home college of the student may negotiate alternative agreements regarding the tuition scholarship with the appointing unit. The scholarship amount shall be in accord with the policy included in the Graduate College Handbook. Copies of all letters-of-intent shall be provided to the student’s home college.

This revised policy was approved with the understanding that all parties will commit to implementing it in a manner that does not adversely impact graduate enrollment. In addition, it is recognized that a transition period will be necessary to enable hiring units outside the academic division to adjust budgets as necessary to accommodate the new policy. It is further recognized that the allocated expense funds of the Student Affairs Division, and possibly other non-academic units, will need to increase substantially to fund the additional tuition scholarship costs that have been previously the responsibility of the home college of the appointees.

**Effective Date:** Appointments beginning Fall semester 2016.