**Motion to Amend Chapter 9 of the Graduate Student Handbook**

**Chapter 9 Subcommittee**: Daniela Dimitrova (Chair), Ann Guddall (Graduate College), Deb Marquart (GC Member), Ardhendu Tripathy (Grad Student Representative), Zack Zenko (GPSS President)

**Background**:

The committee was appointed with the charge to review and recommend changes to Chapter 9 of the Graduate Student Handbook. An overview of the recommended revisions is presented in a memo from the subcommittee that was submitted March 4, 2016 summarized here.

The committee recommends reorganizing the chapter into four sections:

1. Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities (Section 9.1)
2. Specific Policies and Laws of Interest to Graduate Students (Section 9.2)
3. Assistantship Appointment Expectations (Section 9.3)
4. Grievance Procedures (Section 9.4)

The first section titled “Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities” has been revised substantially based on CG feedback. Because of the amount of changes here we propose to discuss/ vote on subsequent sections first.

Other changes in the chapter include a proposed policy change that enable departments to apply for bridge funding in cases of short-term graduate assistant illness/ unexpected medical leave. The assistantship termination procedure due to cause and the distinction between a formal and informal conference has been clarified. The remainder of the changes focus on clarifying processes, softening the language to make it sound less punitive, avoiding repetition, and creating a logical flow of sections through reorganization.

**Motion under review:**

The proposed amendments will be discussed and voted on by section:

Section 9.2 – Specific Policies and Laws of Interest to Graduate Students. *Recommended changes include adding relevant links and minor changes in wording.*

Section 9.3 – Assistantship Appointment Expectations. *Recommended changes clarify wording such as the distinction between a formal and informal conference as it relates to the Procedure for Termination Due to Cause and a new subsection that describes procedures for dealing with situations where there is an inability for students to perform the assistantship duties due to short-term medical leave.*

Section 9.4 – Grievance Procedures. *Recommend changes are relatively minor changes to the wording. The policies and procedures in the current handbook remain unchanged.*

Section 9.1 – Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities. *This is a new section that was developed to clarify the rights and expectations of graduate students. It has been reviewed and endorsed by the Graduate & Professional Student Senate in a resolution dated February 29, 2016. It has been substantially revised since then based on feedback from the Dean of the Graduate College and members of the Graduate Council.*

Please refer to the draft provided by the committee for specific changes to the wording of the document.