Annual Process for RA and TA assignments

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The annual deadline for faculty and graduate students to provide input to the Grad Chair about TA & RA funding arrangements for the upcoming academic year will be May 31. (Input prior to this deadline is most welcome & appreciated.) To this end:

- For the incoming grad students: after the admission process is completed in mid-April, the Grad Chair will canvas the faculty for interest in supporting any of these students with an RA position. Faculty should not make assurances to incoming graduate students about such a position, as current graduate students will have priority for RA positions, with TAs being assigned preferentially to the incoming students.

- Current 1st-year graduate students must select their 699-2 advisors by this deadline and confirm if their advisors can provide RA funding for the upcoming year. It is generally expected that, if feasible, students will be supported on RAs during their 699-2 projects. However, these arrangements will be finalized in concert with the TA positions.

- Current 2nd-year graduate students should confirm they will have RA support for the upcoming academic year by this deadline, typically by selecting a PhD advisor and confirming their advisor's funding support. If they anticipate possible difficulties with this, they should alert the Grad Chair as far in advance of the deadline as possible.

- Current 3rd-year and more senior students will be assumed to be supported by their PhD advisor. Requests for TA positions for such students will be considered extraordinary measures and should be communicated to the Grad Chair as early as possible. PhD advisors have primary responsibility for funding their dissertation students.

As part of the thesis approval process, PhD advisors will be required to provide a funding plan to the student's dissertation committee and the Grad Chair that describes how the student's research will be supported to its completion. TA support cannot be a required component of this plan but may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

It is expected these guidelines will apply in the vast majority of cases. Unanticipated developments that arise following the annual deadline will be accommodated if possible, but this is not guaranteed.