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TO: Academic Deans

FROM: William F. Tate, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Tracey Weldon, Graduate School Dean, Interim

DATE: May 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Health insurance subsidies

To support the health care needs of the full-time Ph.D. students and all other graduate assistants (i.e., SGTAs or SGRAs) not already covered by a grant, the University of South Carolina, will implement a two-year process in which academic units will ultimately support 100% of the remaining health care subsidy not already covered by the Graduate School.

Eligible students must satisfy either or both:

- Hired as a graduate assistant (ACAF 4.00) regardless of enrollment beyond requirements of graduate assistantship.
- Enrolled in a Ph.D. program for at least nine (9) credit hours or approved “Z-status” for under-enrollment.

The following are not eligible for the additional subsidy:

- Any student with an approved waiver of student health insurance by documentation of external health insurance
- Any student with the balance of student health insurance paid by grant or other funding sources
- Any Ph.D. student who is not employed as a graduate assistant, not enrolled in at least nine (9) credit hours, or not approved “Z-status” for under-enrollment.
- Any student in a non-Ph.D. program who is not employed as a graduate assistant

The current premium for AY 2020-2021 is \$2433. For illustration, we assume a premium of \$2500 for AY 2021-2022; the amounts below will be adjusted accordingly once the actual premium is known.

Starting in Fall 2021, each College will be billed \$750 per student. This total represents half of the estimated \$1500, which is the amount that remains after the existing \$1,000 subsidy is paid through the Graduate School. The Graduate School, in collaboration with the Office of the Provost, will provide the remaining \$750.

Starting in Fall 2022, each College will be billed \$1,500 for the same student population referenced above. In subsequent years, the Colleges will be responsible for the \$1,500 for each full-time Ph.D. student and all graduate assistants (i.e., SGTAs or SGRAs) not already covered by a grant.

In the coming weeks, the Office of the Provost and the Graduate School in collaboration with the Bursar's office will be working on a process to develop a report of eligible students. Each College should provide this report to the Graduate School each semester to ensure the correct amount is billed from the College and transferred to the Graduate School for distribution to the student accounts.