



For Immediate Release
March 5, 2020

Graduate Students' Association against Proposed Tuition Hikes

SASKATOON - The Graduate Students' Association is strongly against the proposed five year graduate tuition hikes of:

- **14.75%** for course-based graduate programs;
- **10%** for project/thesis-based graduate programs;
- **6.9%** in the international differential multiplier.

After 5 years, this proposal will see:

- **Course-based** domestic students pay an additional **99%** tuition, and international students pay an additional **177%** tuition;
- **Project/thesis-based** domestic students pay an additional **61% tuition**, and international students pay an additional **124%** tuition.

Graduate students are critical to scientific discovery, innovation, technology, and play an important role in the research and teaching productivity of our institution. More than 2000 graduate students are in thesis/project-based programs, working in interdisciplinary research, collaborating with facilities and institutions nationally and internationally, and publishing quality research. Unfortunately, close to 40% of those graduate students do not receive any type of stipend for the work they perform, and more than 50% of our graduate students have a second or third part-time job to balance the financial costs of tuition and living expenses.

This proposal creates even more barriers to our graduate students, threatens the quality of research and teaching at the university, and forces students to turn down prospective research supervisors that may have drawn them to the University of Saskatchewan. Furthermore, as a result of these tuition hikes, education becomes increasingly more unaffordable and inaccessible, exacerbating the socioeconomic element with respect to obtaining higher levels of education; thus, impacting career choices, and ultimately adversely influencing the ability of our future generations to contribute to the economy of this province and country.

Let us not focus our attention on increasing tuition to reach the U15 median, but instead realign our goals to increasing supports, stipends, scholarships, teaching assistantship salaries and fellowships so that our graduate students are financially secure.

The University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association represents over 4000 graduate students distributed over the 17 schools and colleges.

For more information, please contact Emerita Mendoza at gsa.pres@usask.ca or 306-966-8471.