December 5, 2017

Dear Graduate Students,

Provost Akridge and I would like to update you as the tax reform bills head to conference. As you likely know, and since our last email, the Senate has passed their version of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*. Fortunately, the Senate bill did not contain the provision relating to taxing graduate student tuition waivers that was present in the House bill. Now the House and Senate will appoint conferees who will seek to come to a version that will pass both chambers of Congress before the end of the year. We are obviously hopeful that the Senate bill provisions will prevail.

In terms of advocacy on the issue, Purdue has directly contacted Indiana’s two members of the U.S. Senate and all nine Indiana members of the U.S. House of Representatives to express our deep concerns with the taxation of tuition waivers. In addition, we will continue to advocate on your behalf in partnership with the national organizations (AAU, APLU, CGS, etc.) that represent higher education in Washington, D.C. And, as mentioned in our last communication, we are exploring possible strategies for addressing the challenges our graduate students would face should any provision involving taxation of tuition waivers pass.

If you have questions please don’t hesitate to ask us, your Purdue Graduate Student Government representative, or a faculty mentor. If the end of the semester and/or these broader concerns are creating personal challenges for you, don’t hesitate to reach out to CAPS or the Graduate School Office of Graduate Assistance and Conflict Resolution for guidance and support.

Linda Mason
Interim Dean of the Graduate School
and Professor of Entomology

Jay Akridge
Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs and Diversity