**Virginia Wilbanks Kilgore Scholarship**
Individual Graduate Students’ Scholarships for FY22 (fiscal year July 1, 2021)
Updated by Dean Linda Fox

**Summary Statement:** In 2020, the UGA Graduate School changed the assistantship funding model to “top off” multi-year awards for new students identified through a competitive process. The purpose of these “top off” awards is to recruit highly competitive students. Due to this change by the Graduate School, effective FY22 the College scholarship committee and Associate Dean for Academic Programs, not departments, will direct the Virginia Wilbanks Kilgore Scholarship funds to currently enrolled graduate students in the form of scholarships.

**Background:** Since 2015, in response to the request by the Graduate Coordinators, the Virginia Wilbanks Kilgore Scholarship was directed for graduate-level “top off” recruitment awards of new Ph.D. or M.S. student applicants identified by individual departments based on their strategic priorities in the form of scholarships. The available spending balance for the upcoming fiscal year was divided by four and this amount was allocated to each of the FACS departments in January to recruit new students with intention of enrolling in the fall. This process did not require that new students apply for FACS scholarship consideration. In review, the departments were uneven in the ability to allocate the funds due to delay of students enrolling in the fall as planned, or other interference. Unspent funds of the allocation to departments occurred over two fiscal years. Unspent scholarship funds do not serve the students or the goals of the College for graduate education. Therefore, the dean allocated unspent funds as scholarships in summer 2020.

**Changes effective in spring 2021 for the upcoming fiscal year 2022:** It is recommended approximately ¾ of the projected available spending balance for the upcoming fiscal year be used for graduate student scholarships allocated through the College’s early March scholarship application process. Review by the established College scholarship committee under the guidance of the Associate Dean for Academic Programs will determine allocation to students. The student’s offer will be generated by the Dean’s Office to assure stewardship will occur (thanking donor or donor representative) and that the student is invited to attend the Celebration of Excellence recognition event in October.
It is recommended the scholarship committee continue to consider the burden of mandatory fees and allocate $900 - $1,000 per student to impact a larger number of students and at a level to be meaningful to graduate students.

Going forward, adding the Kilgore Scholarship to the College graduate scholarship website and marketing and promotion to the graduate students to apply for scholarships in the College is highly encouraged to assure strong pool of applications.

**Summer session scholarships for current fiscal year remaining Kilgore Fund balance:**
To aid in the progression towards degree completion, the College identified the goal of reducing barriers to full-time enrollment by graduate students in the summer. One such barrier is the UGA mandatory fees which students will pay even if they have tuition waiver. In 2020, due to the pandemic, there was particular concern that graduate students’ interruption in research and mentoring by faculty would delay time to graduation. To minimize this impact, the unspent Kilgore Scholarship balance in FY20 was directed to encouraging summer 2020 graduate enrollment. The results were very positive for the students, receiving $900 each, and positive for the College due to strong student credit hour production and revenue generation. In 2020, for example, 56 graduate students benefited from $56,800 in scholarships for full-time enrollment in summer session (combined $18,000 Kilgore; $25,200 FACS Fund for Excellence; $9,300 L. A. Mize). Similar plans for the $13,500 remaining FY21 funds will support graduate students committing to enroll full-time in summer 2021.

By April 15, the name(s) and 810 number(s) of the students requesting the Kilgore Scholarship for the summer session full-time (9 credits minimum) are to be provided by the departments in spreadsheet format via SendFiles to the Dean’s Office to process funding through student financial aid and deposit the scholarship into student accounts. The student’s offer of the *Virginia Wilbanks Kilgore Scholarship* will be generated by the Dean’s office as described above to assure stewardship will occur (thanking donor or donor representative) and that the student is invited to attend the Celebration of Excellence recognition event in October.

**TOTAL Available spending balance FY22 = $50,860**
Allocate for graduate students scholarship allocation (@3/4) = $38,000
Reserve funds for summer 2022 = $12,860

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