

Important Message from Dean Schulze
Email to all CAS faculty and Chairs
October 1, 2019

Dear Department Chairs and Members of the CAS faculty,

I have heard the voices of many faculty and department chairs over the last week and appreciate the insight and observations that you have shared with me.

Interim Provost Scott Weber and our University's senior leadership have agreed to my request for additional bridge funding to allow for a vigorous shared-governance process to operationalize the intentions of the PhD Excellence Initiative. My request to the interim provost was based on a resolution from the College's department chairs.

The adjusted bridge funding will cover 100% of the raise for years one and two—2019-2020 and 2020-2021, and 50% for year three. This adjustment will allow the Policy Committee along with the faculty-led committees who will be looking at all areas of the initiative and its impact on the College the time to meet, collaborate and discuss widely the development of plans and the process.

We need the input of as many people as possible to answer the difficult questions these vital conversations will undoubtedly generate, as well as to design processes and plan for the implementation of the PhD Excellence Initiative. If you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please contact your department chair this week so we can finalize committee membership and get to work. I am confident that together we will realize the best possible solutions to position the College as a leader in the education and training of PhD students across the AAU.

The additional bridge funding will provide the College with the flexibility needed to continue a robust recruitment of PhD candidates for fall 2020 while pursuing the objectives of the PhD Excellence Initiative as outlined in the [foundational documents](#). All departments may nominate exceptional eligible candidates for Schomburg Fellowships and Presidential Fellowships, as I said last week. In addition, within the next couple of weeks, following recommendations from these special committees and the Policy Committee, we will provide departments with concrete information about the number of funded PhD students each can enroll in fall 2020 beyond the Schomburg and Presidential candidates. The additional resources also give the committees a full year to adequately consider and address all the implications of the initiative. As the committees begin their work and we start the process to recruit the best students to pursue their doctoral work at UB, our PhD programs should be accepting applications for the 2020-2021 cycle.

I believe absolutely that we need to support our PhD students better and recommit to the ideal that they are co-investigators vital to the university's success as a research institution. I am confident that with all faculty engaged, we will enhance both current and future students' experiences at UB and help our students achieve successful outcomes.

Take care,
Robin Schulze