

Date: Oct. 3, 2024

Subject: PhD program support restored for 2025-26; Proposed funding reallocation to graduate scholarships paused

CC: Chancellor Ann Schmiesing, Chief of Staff Dan Maxey, EVC Ann Sherman, AVC Michael Kocet, FA Chair Sasha Breger-Bush

Dear Deans and Graduate Program Directors,

I'm writing today to let you know that in consultation with AVC of Graduate Education Michael Kocet, **we are pausing the [graduate funding reallocation plan announced in June 2024](#)**. This means that for AY 2025-26, we will restore direct funding to 12 affected PhD programs in amounts they received this past academic year.

This pause will give us time to talk with constituents to identify funding possibilities and ideal distribution methods for our central Graduate Education Scholarships program. (Note that all 2024-25 Graduate Education Scholarships commitments will be honored.)

We have heard mixed feedback these last few months on that June funding reallocation plan, and I decided to pause that plan as I met this past week with faculty leaders. They outlined concerns that this change would make it harder to recruit high-potential doctoral students—because programs would have less advance certainty about what funds would be available for offering financial packages to these student recruits.

I understand this perspective, and I agree with it. Though we sought to prepare our community for some time for this change in graduate funding distribution, it is now evident that more constituent consultation will help us address adverse impacts, and I don't want to impede our doctoral recruitment efforts as we enter the 2025-26 cycle.

Other persistent issues affecting graduate education, many stemming from our [2022 exit from the Graduate School](#), are on my agenda for the coming months. As we work toward solutions to these issues, I will prioritize dialogue with key stakeholders, including faculty governance groups, to clarify and strengthen our graduate education operation for the long term.

Thank you for all you do for graduate education at CU Denver.

Constancio Nakuma, PhD
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs