

Minutes of the Graduate Council
January 24, 2024

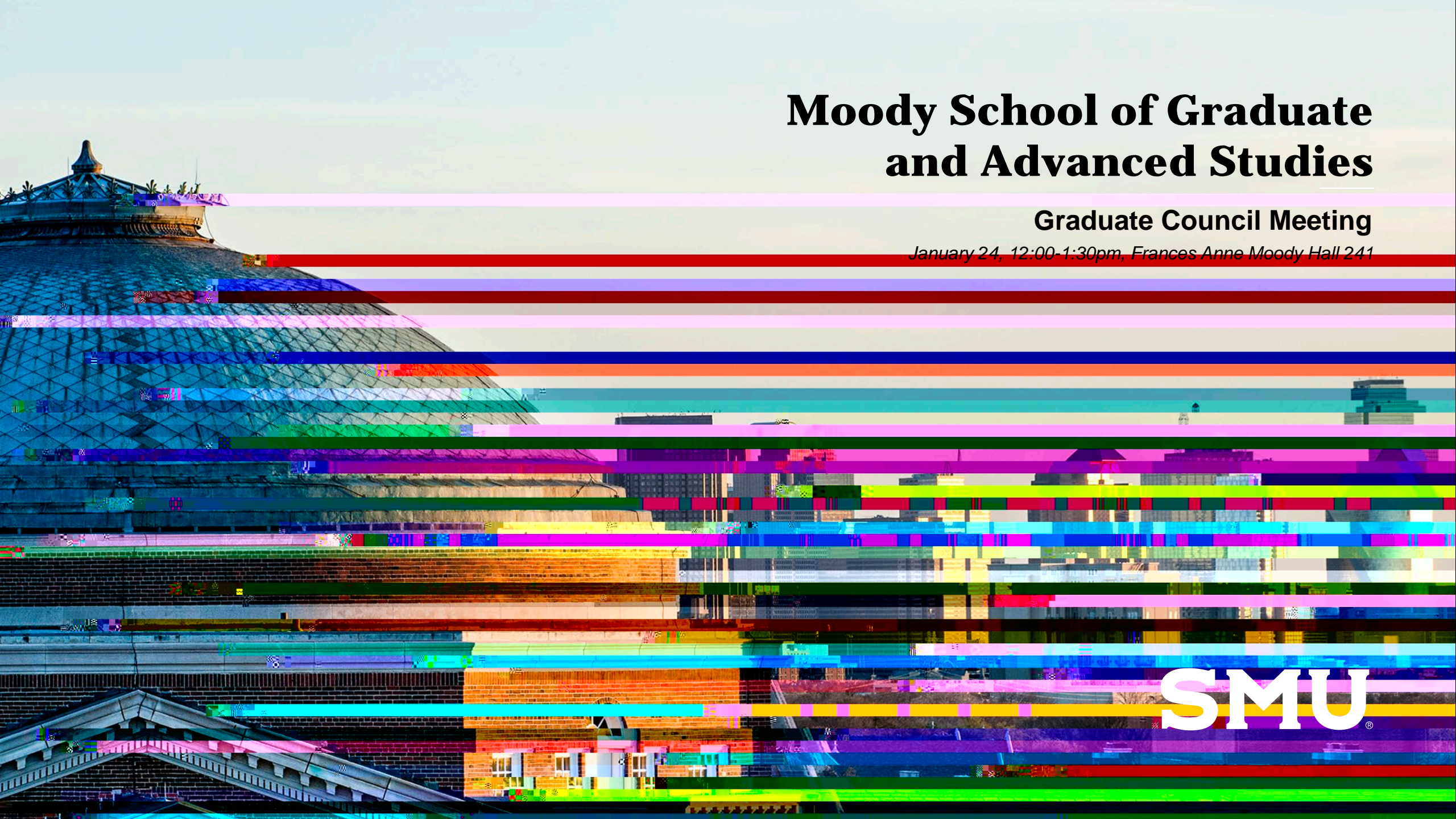
Members in Attendance: Alan Itkin, Elfi Kraka, Anna Lovatt, Volkan Otuge, Alexandra E. Pavlakis,
Anthony Petrosio, Robin Postor, Dinesh Rajar, Gretchen Smith

Members Not in Attendance:

- x Moody Faculty Fellowship Proposal Dr. Itkin explained to the council that Moody has been working on these fellowships for a few years

- x Federal Work Study and Graduate Assistantship. There was not adequate time to discuss this agenda item.

Meeting adjourned.



Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

Graduate Council Meeting

January 24, 12:00-1:30pm, Frances Anne Moody Hall 241

SMU[®]

Meeting Agenda

1. Minutes of the September 13 Meeting
2. Parental Leave Policies
3. Moody Faculty Fellowship Proposal
4. Appeals of Suspensions and Dismissals
5. University PhD, Mustang, and Moody Graduate Fellowship Selection Process
6. Doctoral Hooding
7. Annual Progress Reports
8. Research and Innovation Week 2024
9. Provost Faculty Fellow Assistantship Project Updates
10. Federal Work Study and Graduate Assistantships
11. Other Items

Parental Leave Policy

- » The working group revised the draft policy with input from the Graduate Council and Academic Affairs Forum (thank you Anna, Dinesh, Kate, and Alexandra)
- » The current policy and other documents are available here:
<https://smu.box.com/s/al7aazpe6m5ggbc44smfpbjtpmo46aem>
- » If the Graduate Council is in favor of the policy, it will go back to the Academic Affairs Forum next

Moody Faculty Fellowship Proposal



Moody Faculty Fellowships

- » We have developed a new proposal for Moody Faculty Fellowships that meets the objectives of the gift and supports the University's R1 goal by increasing research expenditures:
 - » 8 Moody Faculty Fellowships will be awarded each year– one in each school/college + Guildhall
 - » Moody Faculty Fellows will receive a \$5,000 research fund to cover research-related expenses for the Fellow– or for graduate students or postdocs under their supervision– that must be used within the fellowship year
 - » Moody Faculty Fellows will be selected for their outstanding mentorship
 - » The nomination packet will include: 1) a statement of mentoring experience and philosophy, 2) a letter of support from a former mentee, 3) a letter of support from the department chair, 4) the nominee's CV
 - » Moody Faculty Fellows will be expected to share best practices in mentoring at the Graduate Student Success Day and at other venues

Appeals of Suspensions and Dismissals



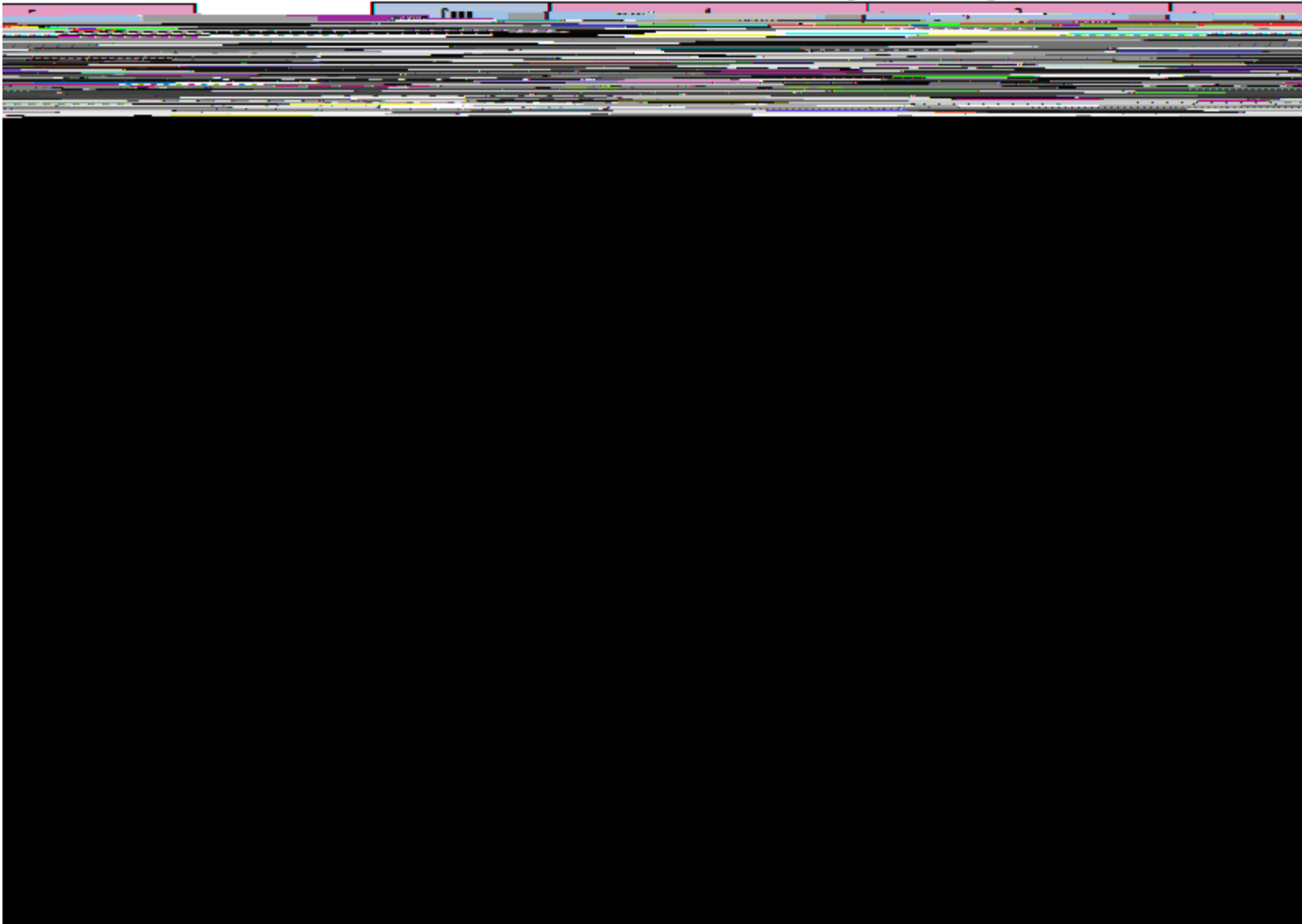
Appeals of Suspensions and Dismissals

- » Last year, the Graduate Council (led by a taskforce) developed a policy for graduate grade appeals that was approved by EPC
 - » Grade appeal policy: <https://catalog.smu.edu/content.php?catoid=64&navoid=6260>
- » However, students sometimes appeal a program's decision to dismiss or suspend them for reasons related to other program requirements (qualifying exams, research progress, etc.)
- » No formal policy exists for these sorts of appeals
- » A new policy needs to be developed
- » The grade appeal process can serve as a model for the new suspension/dismissal appeal process
- » We are standing up a taskforce to develop this policy

Fellowship Selection Process

- » The Moody School provides three kinds of fellowships to accepted PhD applicants:
 - » **University PhD Fellowships** are “topping up” awards that provide funding in addition to that offered by the department. They are intended to entice promising applicants to study at SMU by making financial offers competitive with top programs. Awards are renewable for up to a total of five years, contingent upon acceptable progress towards the degree.
 - » **Mustang Fellowships** provide stipends of \$31,000 for up to five years for PhD students who are US citizens or permanent residents and who, through their own unique experiences, promise to introduce their chosen fields to new backgrounds, perspectives and ideas. PhD program applicants are invited to submit themselves for consideration for this fellowship through a brief essay in their application. The nomination form for this fellowship will ask you for your evaluation of how the nominee stands to contribute to enriching and broadening scholarship in the field.
 - » **Moody Graduate Fellowships** are offered to PhD applicants who show exceptional promise for academic success. They provide stipends of \$31,000 for up to five years.

Fellowship Selection Process



Doctoral Hooding

- » Currently, Ph.D., D.Eng., Ed.D., and D.L.S. recipients are honored at the Moody School dinner the evening before the all-University Commencement, and then they are hooded by their advisor on stage at the all-University commencement ceremony.
- » Some faculty in the Perkins School of Theology have requested that D.Min. and D.S.M. students (up to 12 per year) also be hooded at the all-University commencement. However, other Perkins School faculty seem to be opposed to this.
- » Whatever the preference of the Perkins School faculty regarding their doctorates, there are still open questions with regards to doctoral hooding:
 - » Should we offer a separate hooding ceremony, run by the Moody School, on the evening before the all-University commencement?
 - » The Moody School hooding would replace both the dinner and the advisor hooding at Commencement
 - » Short statements from the student and advisor could be read on their behalf when the student is hooded
 - » A reception would be held afterwards
 - » One student could be selected to give a short valedictory speech at the hooding

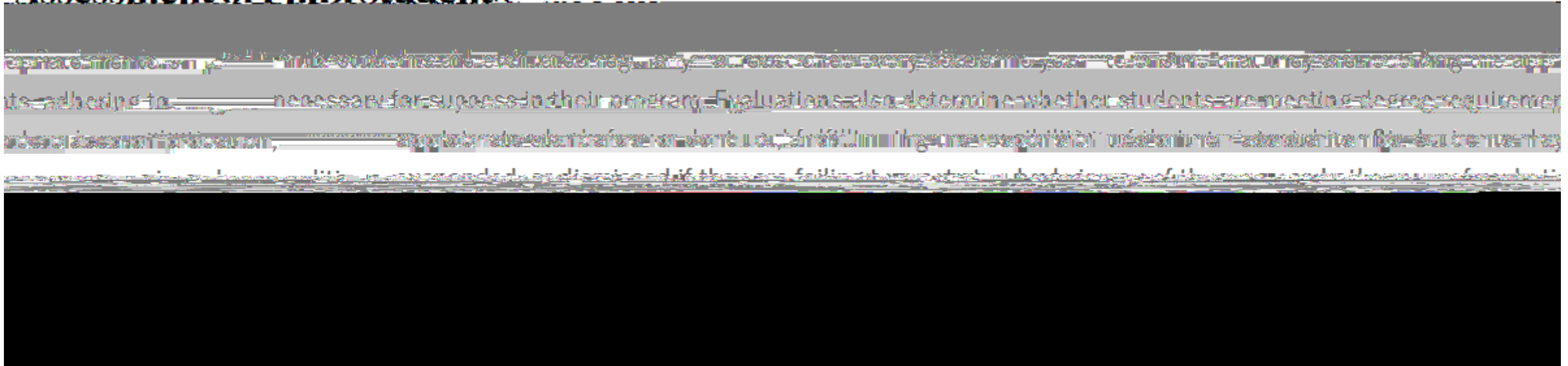
Annual Progress Reports for PhD Students



Annual Progress Reports for Moody School Students

- The question has come up, “what are SMU’s requirements with regards to annual review of PhD students?”
- A few cases have come up where it would have been helpful to have annual progress report documentation in the Moody School
- MFA students are also assessed annually. Should a policy apply to them as well?
- Current graduate catalog policy:

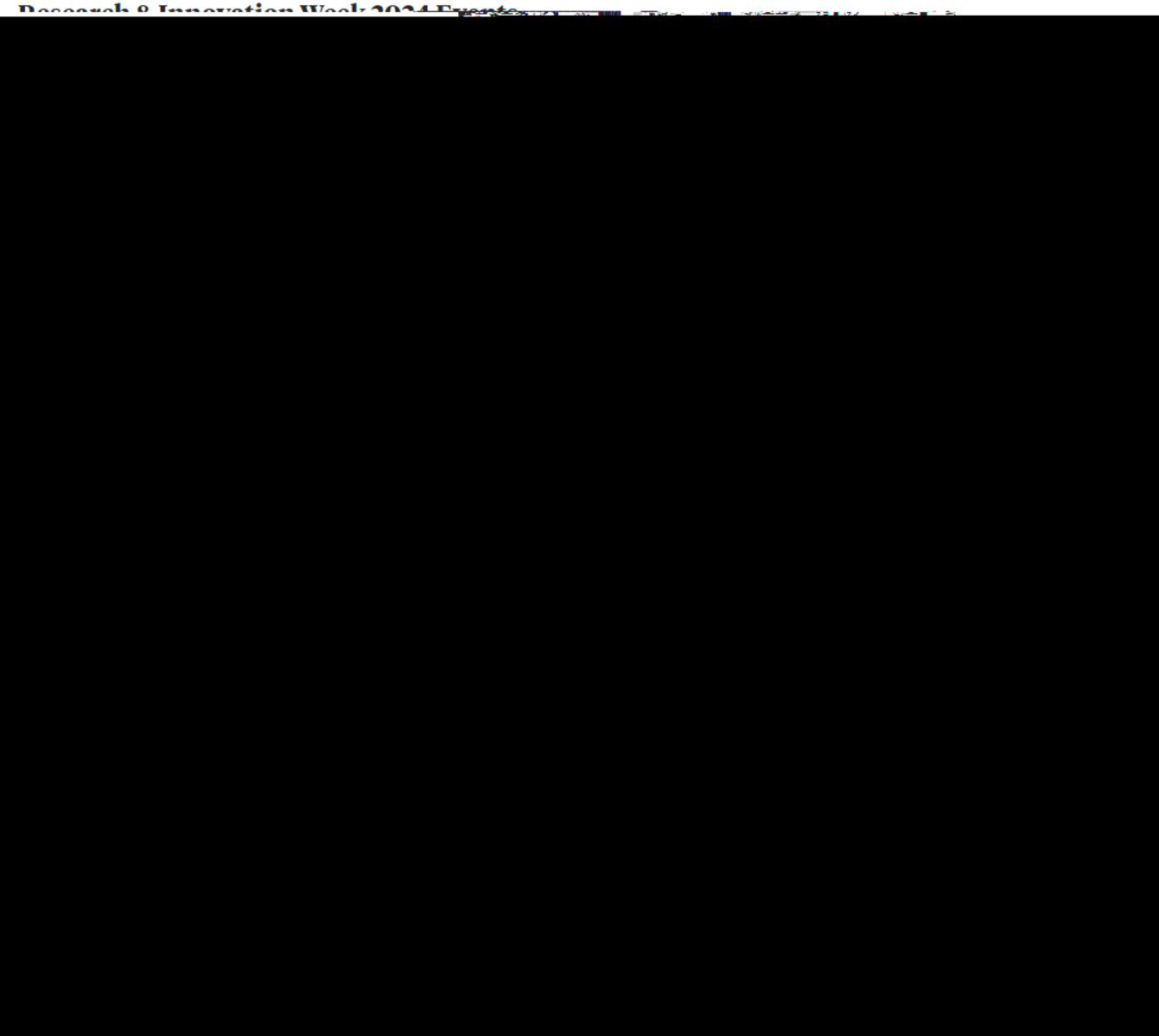
Assessment of Ph.D. Students



Research & Innovation Week 2024



Research & Innovation Week 2024



» Events will take place April 1-5

» Ways that you can help:

» Encourage students to participate in the poster sessions

» Encourage faculty to serve as judges for the poster sessions

» Encourage colleagues to come out for the keynote

» Suggest departmental events that can be promoted as part of Research & Innovation Week

Provost's Faculty Fellow Assistantship Project



Provost's Faculty Fellow Assistantship Report

From the student survey:



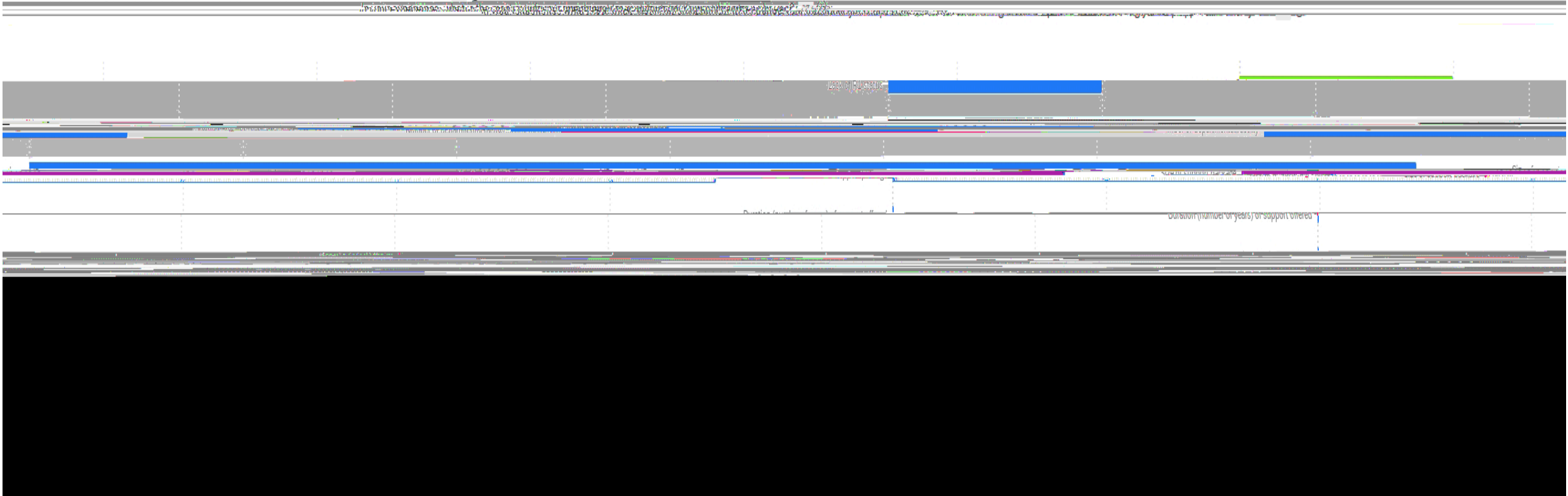
Provost's Faculty Fellow Assistantship Report

From the program director/department chair survey:



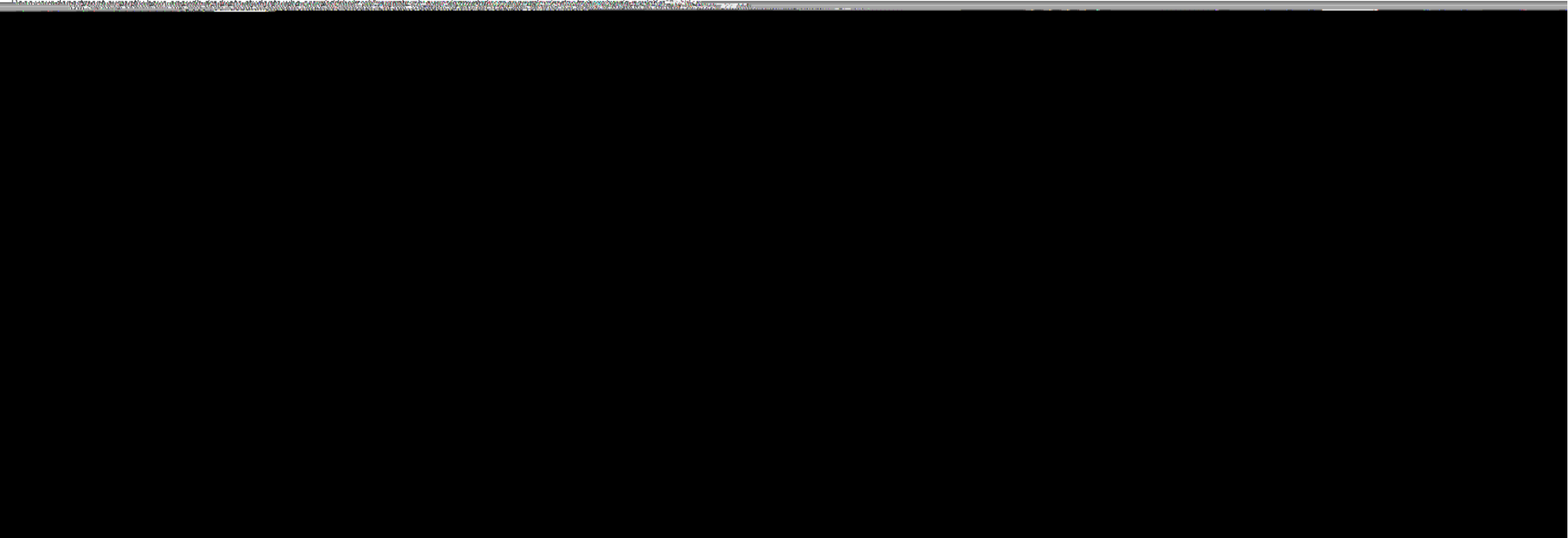
Provost's Faculty Fellow Assistantship Report

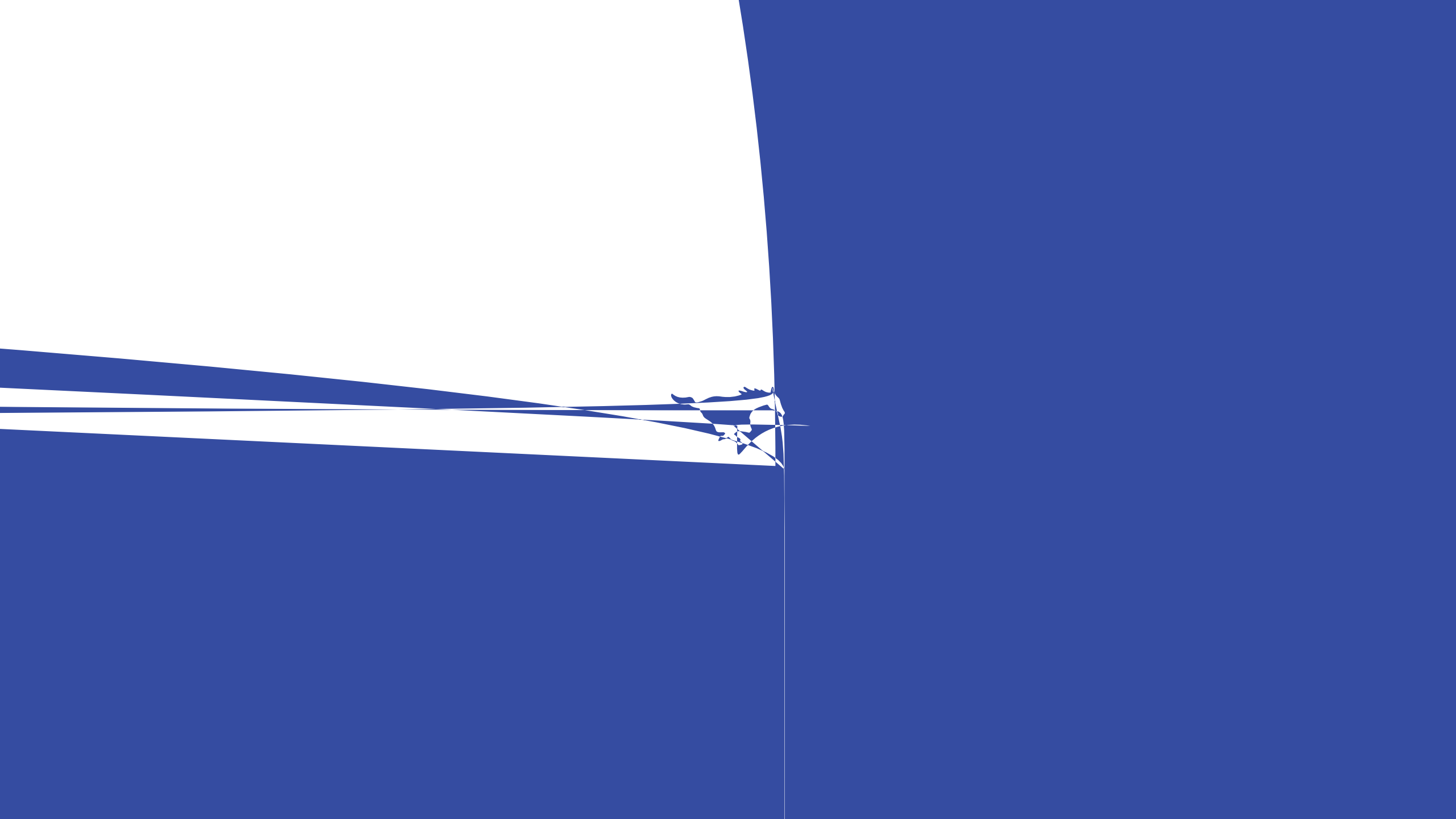
From the program director/departement chair survey:



Provost's Faculty Fellow Assistantship Report

From the program director/department chair survey:





Federal Work Study and Graduate Assistantships

- » We are working with Financial Aid, Payroll, and other offices to explore this possibility
- » Federal work study would provide $\frac{3}{4}$ of a student's stipend, up to \$6,000 in total (so the federal work study contribution would be \$4,500)
- » This could be done for domestic students who demonstrate need by completing the FAFSA
- » Using these federal work study funds as part of the support for eligible students would free up funds that could be used to increase support for all graduate students in the school/program
- » The Office of Financial Aid would prefer to pilot this with students in a few programs starting Fall 2024
- » There are still some issues to be worked out, but this is done at other universities, like U Memphis

