



## Graduate Student Funding at Texas A&M University






Council of Principal Investigators  
December 14, 2016

**Dr. Karen Butler-Purry**  
Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies  
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering


GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
1





## Attracting the Best Graduate Students Survey -- - December 2015


- 67 Departments responded, with 82 total majors and 134 degrees represented
- **Survey question 4:** What are the current barriers, internal and external, in attracting the best graduate students to apply and enroll in your program?
  1. **Student Funding**
    - Limited scholarship/fellowship funding and number of assistantships, unstable funding
    - Late timing of offers including university fellowships
    - Non-competitive funding levels, in amount and duration (multi-years)
    - Non-payment of fees for GAs, Lack of tuition funding for master's GAs
    - Struggle between master's and doctoral student funding
    - Heavy teaching loads for GATs
    - Difficult for faculty to ensure continuous external funding for PhD level students
    - Need partners (significant others) placement for some top graduate students


GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
2

 <b>TEXAS A&amp;M</b> UNIVERSITY	<b>Attracting the Best Graduate Students Survey</b> <b>-- - December 2015</b>
<b><u>Q4 (cont'd)</u></b>	
<b><u>2. Recruitment</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing – no central marketing for graduate students especially for domestic. Brand recognition, awareness. Website, social media</li> <li>• Lack of strategic recruiting practices: limited face to face contact with prospective students including campus visits, limited faculty involvement in recruiting, limited staff for recruiting</li> <li>• Reputation of programs</li> <li>• Low diversity of students</li> <li>• Location -- Geographic location, size of BCS, reputation of Texas, awareness of Texas A&amp;M</li> <li>• Competition in job market -- Decrease in domestic students interested in graduate school.</li> </ul>	
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES	3

 <b>TEXAS A&amp;M</b> UNIVERSITY	<b>Attracting the Best Graduate Students Survey -- - December 2015</b>
<b><u>Q4 (cont'd)</u></b>	
<b><u>3. Faculty</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retirement – some departments are replacing tenured faculty with non-tenured/instructors, limiting number of active research programs</li> <li>• Lack of diversity in faculty</li> <li>• Lack of specializations to meet students' interests</li> </ul>	
<b><u>4. Administrative Processes</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time to admit is too slow. Time to offer award packages is too slow (diversity, merit, etc.).</li> </ul>	
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES	4

 <b>Fall 2015 CPI Survey</b> <b>(graduate student related questions)</b>																									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Q56. Are there adequate financial support mechanisms for graduate students?</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answer</th> <th>Response</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>153</td> <td>28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N/A</td> <td>64</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>329</td> <td>61%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </li> <li> <b>Q58. Are the graduate students available highly qualified? How might we attract better students?</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answer</th> <th>Response</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>268</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N/A</td> <td>58</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>218</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </li> </ul>	Answer	Response	%	Yes	153	28%	N/A	64	12%	No	329	61%	Answer	Response	%	Yes	268	49%	N/A	58	11%	No	218	40%	<p><b>CPI responses to Q58 that are not included in Q4 of Programs/Departments survey input.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need more training grants</li> <li>Timing of external funding does not always synch up with availability of outstanding students. Hence may lose a good student because funding not available or can't find a good student when funding is available.</li> <li>Need more rigor in the application review process</li> <li>Need strategic international student recruitment plan.</li> </ol>
Answer	Response	%																							
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GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES		5																							

 <b>Recommendations: Attracting the Best Graduate Students Survey -- - December 2015</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Survey question 5:</b> If the university could provide matching of your funds, what actions would you take to resolve the barriers for your program?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Recruitment activities</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Matching funds for campus visits</b></li> <li><b>More stability in required matching for university fellowships, year to year</b></li> <li><b>TAMU-wide graduate programs marketing campaign</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>(lower priority)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment visits to targeted universities (MSI, PUIs, etc.), attendance at minority conferences, and locations to target working professionals</li> <li>Add recruiting staff in departments</li> <li>Funding for summer 2-3 week seminars, undergraduate research experiences, etc.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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6	



### Recommendations: Attracting the Best Graduate Students Survey -- - December 2015

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- **Survey question 5 (cont'd)**
  - **Graduate Student Funding**
    1. Flexible and local controlled funding to increase duration of financial commitments to new graduate students
    2. Funding focused on some of TAMU's top graduate programs or strategic priorities for support for strategically targeted "best" graduate programs
    3. Professional development funding for current graduate students and activities for prospective graduate students
  - **Other (lower priority)**
    1. Payment of student Required Fees
    2. Support to secure more training grants
    3. Reduce number of full-time enrollment hours (e.g. for summer, at milestones such as PhD candidacy, etc.)
    4. Pool for one-time website enhancements for departments

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
7




### August 2016 CPI Recommendations

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CPI Recommendations for Increased Resources for Graduate Student Training

- Competitive, Sustainable Multi-year Funding Offers
- Coordinated Recruiting Efforts
- Professional Development Opportunities
- **Interdisciplinary Programs**


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8



### FY17 Graduate Student Support Funding Allocated by OGAPS

1. Graduate Enhancement (GE) pool [determined based on SCH in graduate level courses, ~\$6.3 million]
2. Graduate Tuition Payment (GT) pool [~\$9 million]
3. Interdisciplinary Degree Programs (IDP) pool [\$1 million]
4. Flexible pool [**~\$6,3 million**]
5. TAMU Merit Fellowship pool [**~\$1.5 million**]
6. New pool (in FY17) of funds to colleges for recruitment visits to campus [**\$1 million**]
7. New pool (in FY17) for Back-stop “insurance” for honoring multi-year commitments when funding runs out [**\$1 million** central funds]
  - GOC Deans subcommittee developed recommended guidelines
  - Karen Butler-Purry seeking input before finalizing guidelines
    - CPI EC – June 23, 2016 CPI EC memo
    - Currently compiling input from departments via GOC Deans on current practices for department offers
    - Later will seek input from faculty


GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
9




### 2013- 14 AY Direct Graduate Student Support Data -TAMU Main Campus (slide 1 of 2)

Graduate Student Support	OGAPS Central Funds		Other Sources		Total -- all sources
Assistantships(2)	\$ 5,242,305	7.3%	\$ 66,886,594	92.7%	\$ 72,128,899
Waivers - Tuition Payments via TWAPMTS(3)	\$ 10,754,887	27.7%	\$ 28,045,014	72.3%	\$ 38,799,901
Campus Wages and Work Study(1)			\$ 5,549,307		\$ 5,549,307
Grants(1)			\$ 2,106,026		\$ 2,106,026
Loans(1)			\$ 29,382,173		\$ 29,382,173
Scholarships/Fellowships (1&4)	\$ 7,800,839	38.6%	\$ 12,413,767	61.4%	\$ 20,214,606
<b>Total Grad Student Support (all sources)</b>	<b>\$ 23,798,031</b>		<b>\$ 144,382,881</b>		<b>\$ 168,180,912</b>
<b>Total Grad Student Support (excluding Loans)</b>	<b>\$ 23,798,031</b>		<b>\$ 115,000,708</b>		<b>\$ 138,798,739</b>
<b>Percentage of Total Grad Student Support (excluding Loans)</b>	<b>17.15%</b>		<b>82.85%</b>		<b>100.00%</b>
Waivers - Non Resident Waivers ***					\$ 28,562,974
(1) Data Source -- Financial Aid					
(2) Data Source -- BPP/Data Warehouse					
(3) Data Source --- EIS					
(4) Data Source -- OGAPS					

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
10

 <b>TEXAS A&amp;M UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>2013- 14 AY Direct Graduate Student Support Data -TAMU Main Campus (continued)</b>
<b><u>Definitions</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Waivers (also considered gift aid) are tuition waivers students receive as part of their aid package. The reported figure for Waivers -- Non Resident Waivers category is the value of the non resident waiver itself. The Waivers-Tuition Payments category includes in-state tuition paid via TWAPMTS in banner</li> <li>➤ Grants are a type of gift aid (need-based with specific qualification parameters) that do not have to be repaid (sources include institutional, state, or federal, as applicable)</li> <li>➤ “Assistantships -- OGAPS Central Funds” = accounts with a Reporting Group code of GE, GS, or CH.</li> <li>➤ “Assistantships – Other Sources” = accounts without a Reporting Group code GE, GS, or CH.</li> <li>➤ “Scholarship/Fellowships -- OGAPS Central Funds” = TAMU Diversity, Merit, and Pathways to Doctorate Fellowships, and accounts with Reporting Group code of GE, GS, GR, or CH.</li> </ul>	
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES	11

 <b>TEXAS A&amp;M UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>Examples of 2 Colleges’ Utilization of OGAPS allocated Funds</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education – Dr. George Cunningham, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs</li> <li>• Agriculture &amp; Life Sciences – Dr. Dave Reed, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Faculty Development</li> </ul>	
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES	12



## Contact Information

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# Graduate Funding in the College of Education and Human Development

George B. Cunningham

Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Marilyn Kent Byrne Chair for Student Success



## Student-Focused Strategic Priorities



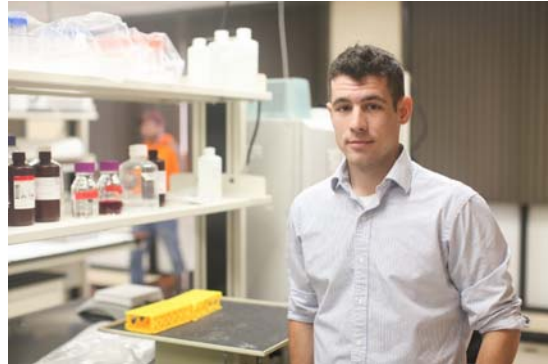
- Manage student enrollment strategically, with a particular focus on high-need fields and reflecting the demographic character of the state.
- Enhance, recognize, and reward diversity and a climate of inclusion, equity, and respect for students, faculty, and staff.
- Prepare scholars for the professoriate





## Graduate Enhancement Funding

- Half distributed based on WSCH generation
- Half distributed based on how well the department met PhD student training metrics
  - publications, presentations, prof. experiences, graduates enter academy, 6-yr graduation, program improvement



## Graduate Tuition

- Priority for doctoral students
- State-funded GAT and GANT
- Based on FTE headcount



## Flexible Pool

- CEHD Strategic Research Awards
- POWER Writing GA
- Scholarships
- Travel grants
- Research grants
- Dept. climate activities



## Graduate Merit Fellowships



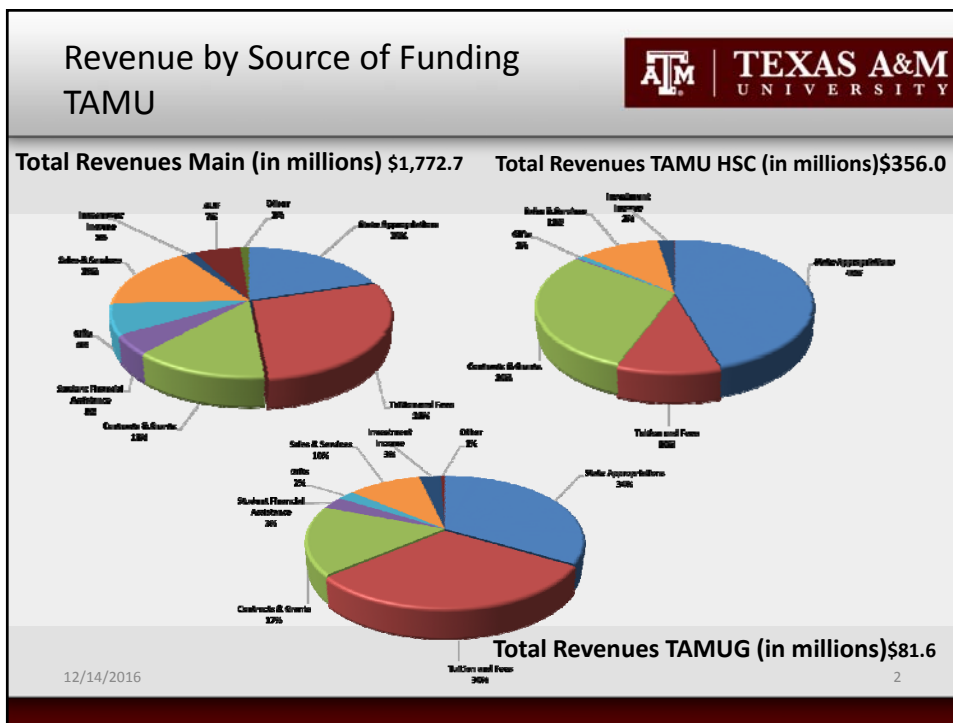
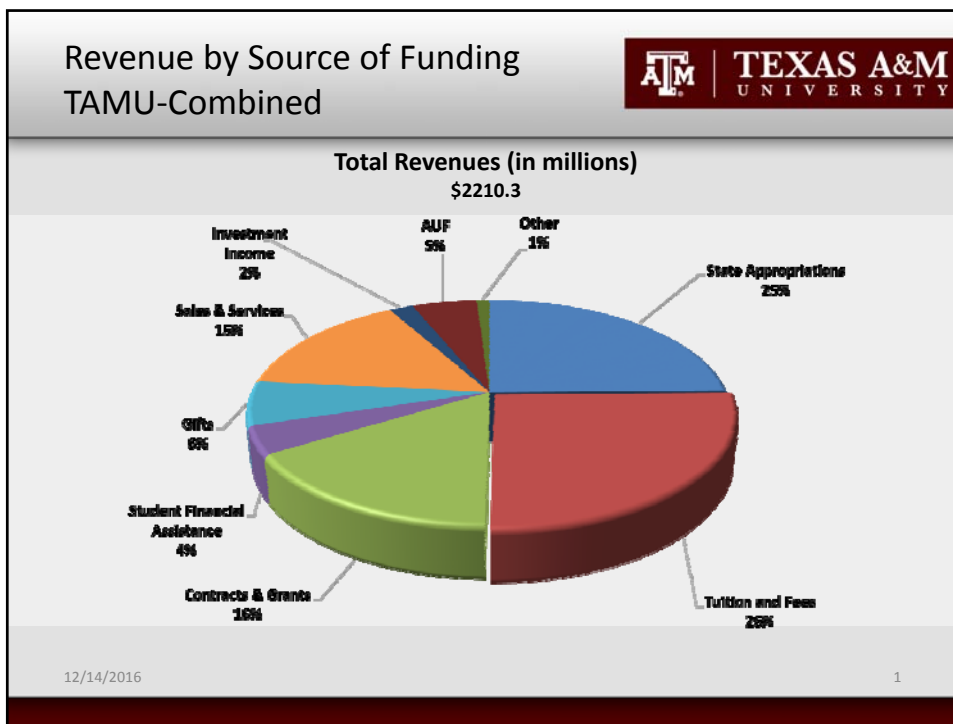
- Focus on strategic priorities
- 3-yr commitment, with match between college and departments
- Criteria
  - Superior academic achievement
  - Relevant experiences outside the classroom
  - Contribute to diversity mission of college
  - Letters of recommendation

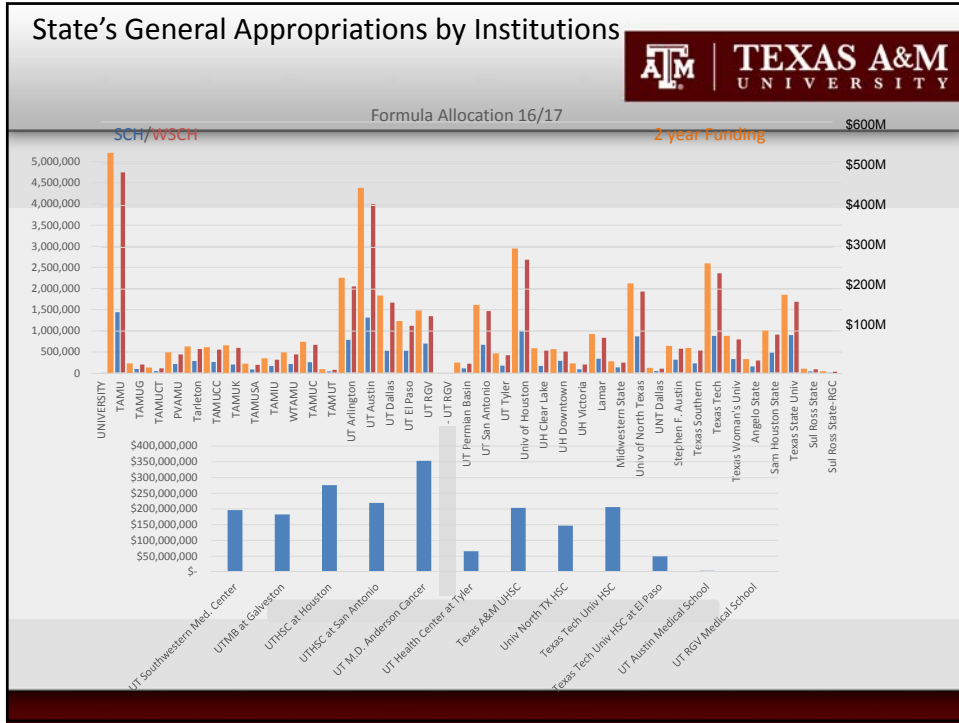




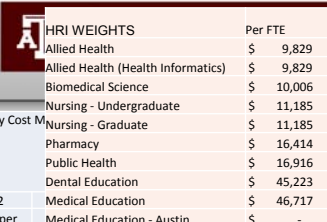
[gbcunningham@tamu.edu](mailto:gbcunningham@tamu.edu)





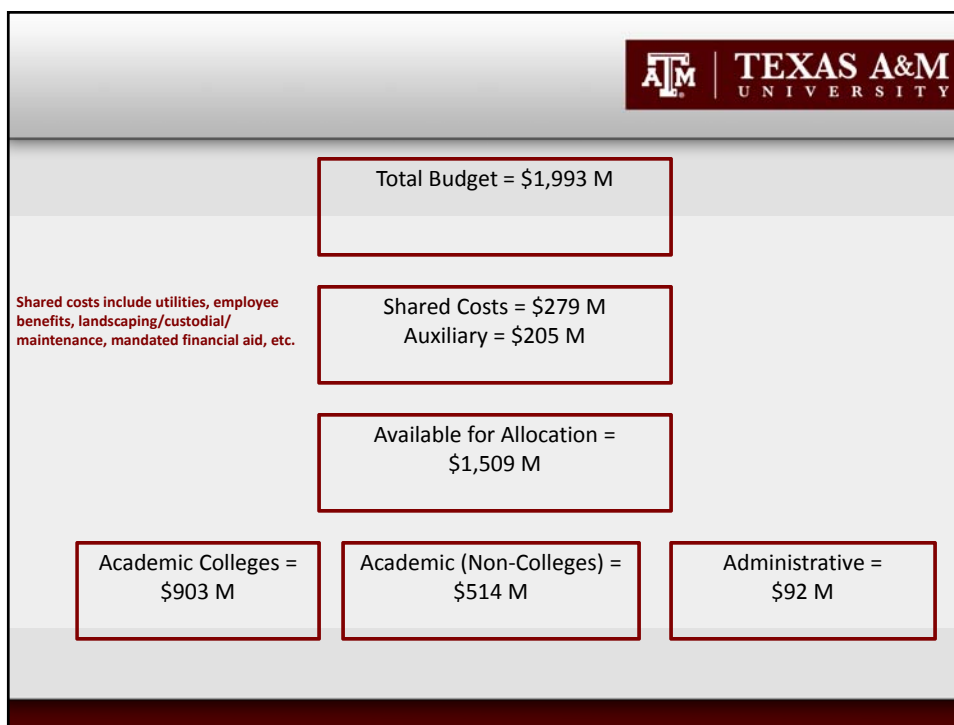
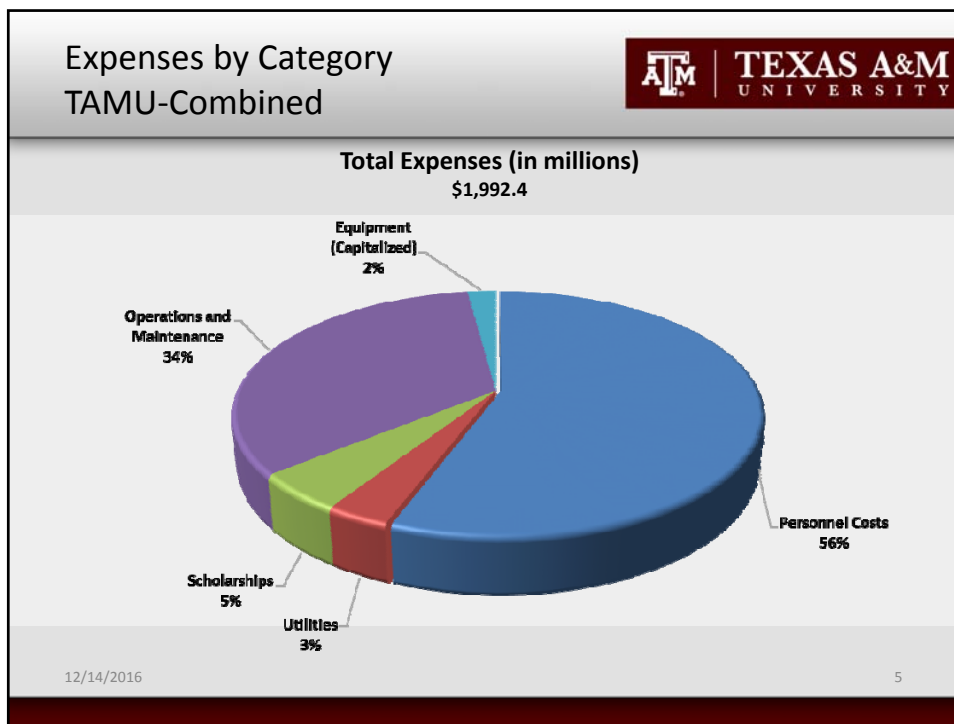


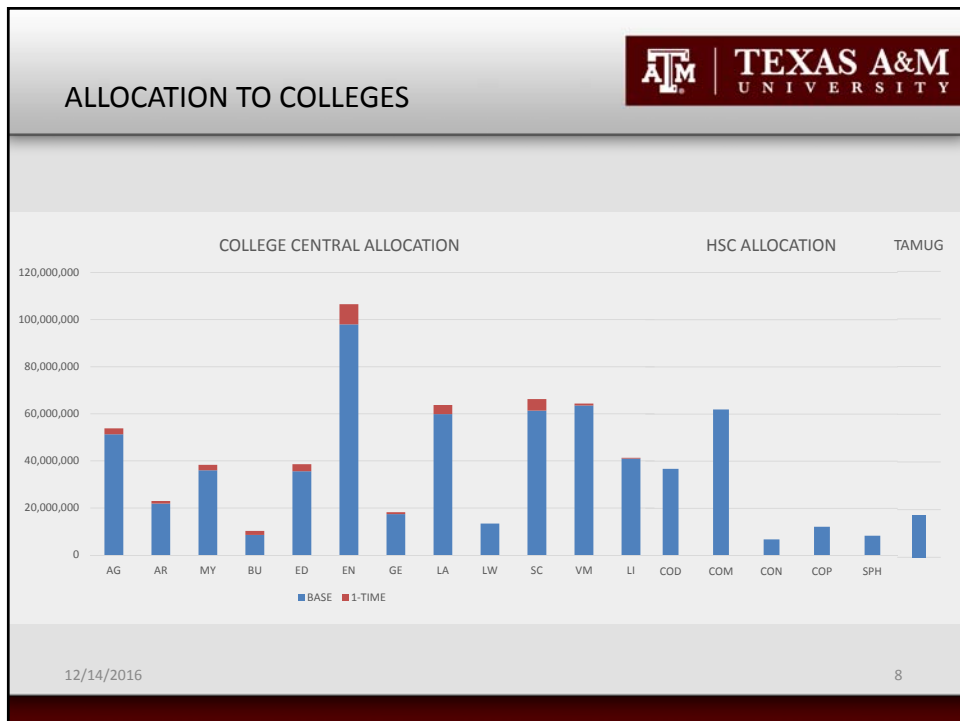
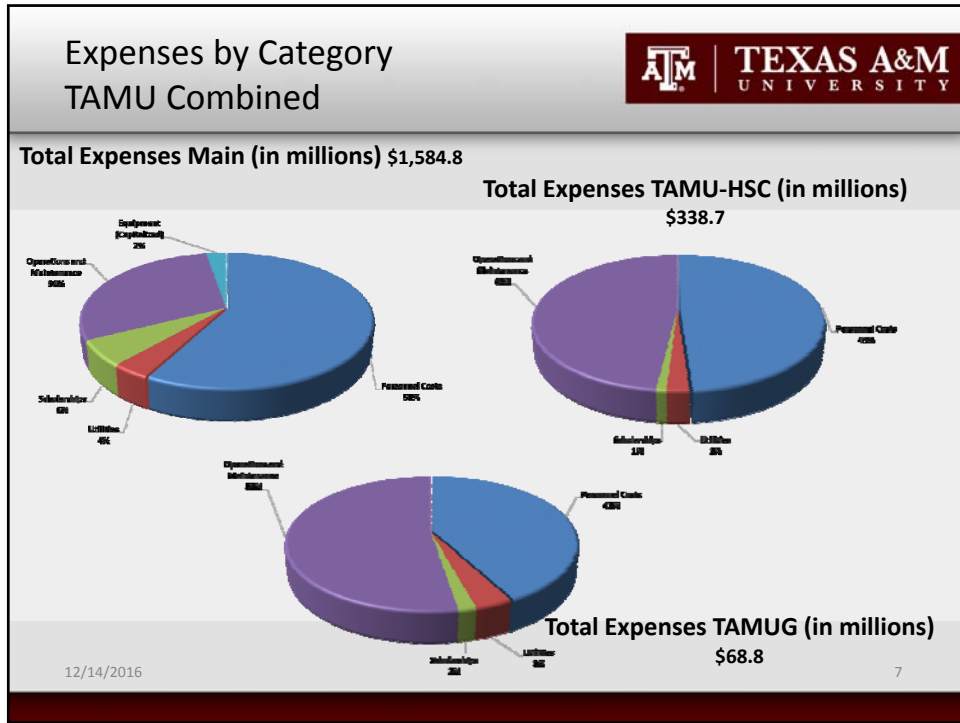
## Weights



GAI WEIGHTS 16/17 FINAL Cost Matrix		Level					18/19 Preliminary Cost Matrix							
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4				
Fund	Program Area	Lower Division	Upper Division	Masters	Doctoral	Professional	Lower Division	Upper Division	Medical Education - Austin	Medical Education - El Paso	Medical Education - Permian Basin	Medical Education - San Antonio		
1	Lib Arts	1.00	1.76	4.00	10.77		1.00	1.76	4.05	10.88				
2	Science	1.78	3.02	7.53	20.61		1.69	2.90	7.43	21.25				
3	Fine Arts	1.47	2.52	6.03	7.95		1.47	2.52	6.09	7.78				
4	Teach Ed	1.63	2.08	2.56	7.42		1.60	2.10	2.47	6.94				
5	Agricult	2.07	2.75	7.80	11.77		2.10	2.70	7.21	12.36				
6	Engin	2.38	3.52	7.10	17.98		2.25	3.37	6.14	17.70				
7	Home Ec	1.10	1.75	3.01	8.67		1.13	1.77	2.85	8.50				
8	Law					5.13								4.95
9	Social Svc	1.68	2.05	2.93	18.18		1.52	1.87	2.57	19.44				
10	Library Sci	1.49	1.57	3.60	12.06		1.49	1.54	3.58	13.02				
11	Dev.Ed/VM	1.00			22.03		1.00			22.84				
12	Voc Trng	1.45	2.64				1.26	2.85						
13	Physic Trn	1.51	1.26				1.51	1.25						
14	Health Svcs	1.07	1.65	2.79	9.86	2.64	1.05	1.59	2.67	10.11	2.61			\$6,655
15	Pharmacy	1.86	5.02	28.29	35.14	4.32	2.04	4.93	28.68	32.24	4.26			\$10,618
16	Busi Ad	1.19	1.88	3.39	23.92		1.18	1.86	3.36	24.41				
17	Optome					7.58							7.93	
18	TchEd Prac	2.28	2.13				2.23	2.22						
19	Technol	2.26	2.41	3.89	5.20		2.18	2.38	3.72	11.50				
20	Nursing	1.72	2.11	3.34	8.99		1.59	2.10	3.21	9.30				\$3963

2016/2017 Rate per Weighted Semester Credit Hour (WSCH) = \$55.39 per year.

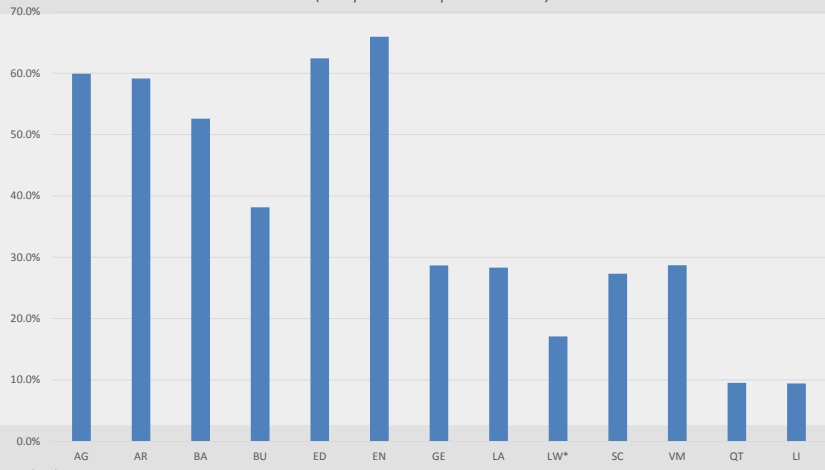




### TAMU MAIN Budget Change



Budget allocation FY17 compared to FY13  
(except Law compared to FY14)



12/14/2016

9