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DATE: December 19, 2005
 FROM: Regina Vasilatos-Younken *RVY*
 TO: John Mason, Jr., College of Engineering
 RE: Graduate Fellowship Application Incentive Award Program

An incentive program has been initiated by the Graduate School that is designed to catalyze the development and successful submission of competitive applications by students to agencies and foundations that offer prestigious predoctoral fellowships, such as the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program. As was mentioned during the December ACGE meeting, the opportunities for NSF Fellowships are considerable and Penn State has not been sufficiently active in this arena, so that a particular emphasis is to produce a larger yield of NSF Fellowship applications. However, you may utilize the incentive award allocations provided to your college for comparable external funding opportunities from other sources (e.g., NIH, EPA, DOD). Such sources should be comparable in terms of monetary value, prestige and competitive nature. The Graduate School will provide \$1,000 awards to each highly qualified student selected by their college who successfully completes and submits a competitive award application and enrolls in or is already enrolled in a graduate program at Penn State. In the case of NSF, students may apply as either incoming or current first-year graduate students.

The Graduate School will allocate up to eighteen (18) \$1,000 awards (\$18,000 total) to the College of Engineering to be awarded during the 2006 – 07 AY. The selection process will be decentralized and we ask that you solicit nominations from your graduate programs and select the most competitive students. Awards will not be processed by the Graduate School until you have signed off on the completed application in order to ensure that any award request has your approval, and to facilitate the process of accounting for approved nominations relative to the total number of awards allocated to your college. Information regarding the incentive program is attached. If you have any questions about this program or the eligibility of a fellowship program other than those indicated on the forms (NSF, EPA STAR, etc.), please feel free to contact Darrin Thornton in the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration.

Note: There are two separate nomination forms attached: one that should be used specifically for NSF nominations and another to be used for nominations other than NSF.