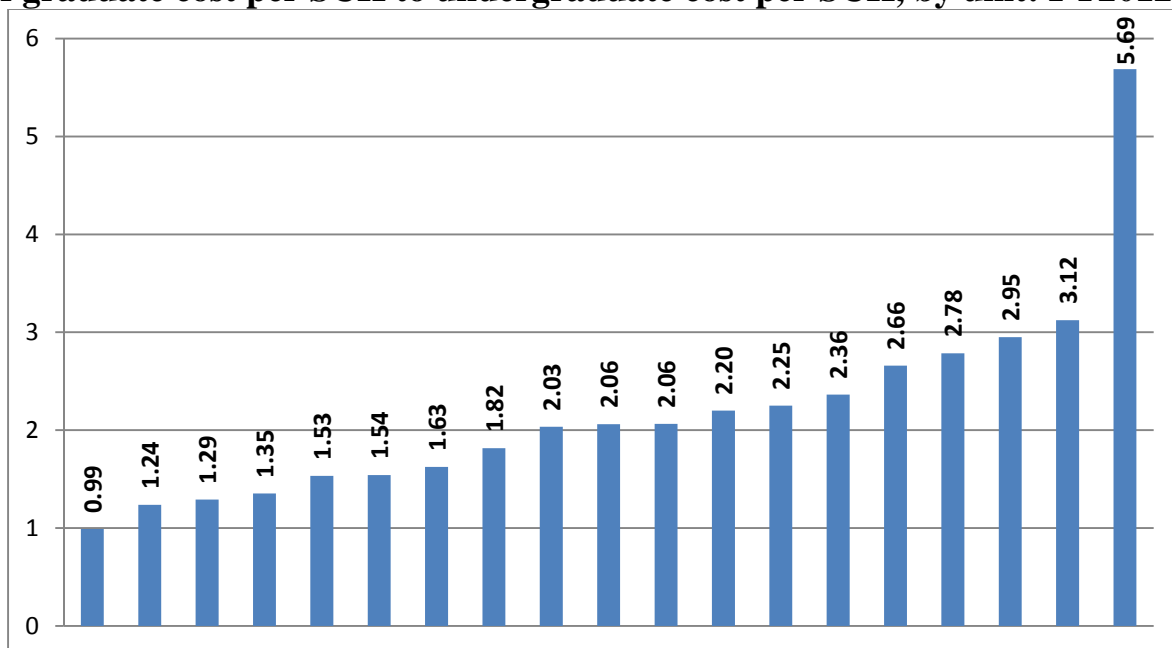


TO: Karen Gipson, Chair, ECS/UAS
FROM: Robert Hollister, Chair, FSBC
SUBJECT: Cost of Graduate Programs
DATE: April 21, 2016
CC: Lisa Surman Haight, Senate Assistant; Claudia Leiras, Chair Graduate Council

In this year's annual charge FSBC was asked to review the costs of graduate programs. This was actually done the previous year on April 17, 2015. We recognize the co-mingling of costs between graduate and undergraduate programs makes it difficult to truly estimate costs. We considered the following analysis provided by the Provost's Office reasonable. Furthermore we conclude that the ratio of spending on graduate programs relative to undergraduate programs at GVSU is generally reasonable. There is some concern that graduate programs are subsidized by undergraduate programs but the magnitude does not appear to be greater than differences between undergraduate programs (where an expensive undergraduate program may be subsidized by an inexpensive program).

Ratio of graduate cost per SCH to undergraduate cost per SCH, by unit: FY2012-FY2014



In order to estimate graduate costs, costs incurred within academic departments in the last 3 fiscal years were allocated to graduate instruction as follows:

1. Individual faculty members' compensation was distributed according to their teaching activity (e.g. if a faculty member taught 6 graduate credits and 12 undergraduate credits, then 1/3 of that person's compensation for that year would be ascribed to graduate education and 2/3 to undergraduate). Compensation cost for faculty borrowed from another unit to teach is allocated to the borrowing unit as a percentage of workload.
2. All other costs (non-instructional staff, CSSM, equipment) were distributed according to the department's distribution of student credit hours (SCH). (e.g. if 15% of the department's SCH for the year were graduate-level courses, then 15% of the department's non-faculty costs were assumed to be for graduate education).
3. Departments with only incidental instruction (<100 SCH per year) at either level were excluded from analysis.

Under these assumptions, graduate credit hours cost 1.53 times as much as undergrad SCH University-wide. Within academic units, the ratio of graduate to undergraduate costs range from 0.99 to 5.69. Dropping outliers, the range is 1.24 to 3.12. Master's tuition rates range from 1.25 to 1.37 times the undergraduate rate and doctoral tuition is 1.54 times.