1. **Enhancement Awards**

   Brittney Garbrick, ASUSU Graduate Studies Senator, said there are available scholarships that are under-utilized by graduate students. Not all of the award money was used in the fall for the Graduate Research and Project Grants, and students can still apply for this award. The Graduate Enhancement Awards are available for outstanding graduate students. This is a $4,000 cash award. The deadline for the enhancement awards is March 28th. For details visit [http://www.usu.edu/ususa/gss/awards.cfm](http://www.usu.edu/ususa/gss/awards.cfm).

2. **Thesis/Dissertation reviewers**

   Steve Beck circulated a list of department thesis/dissertation reviewers and asked GPCs to update department’s information if needed.

3. **Application numbers**

   As we’ve mentioned before the application numbers are up. We brought back a part-time person to help. We will be saying good-bye to Melany Clark in our office. She has taken a new position with University Advising. **NOTE:** We have hired Mike Marino to take Melany’s place.

4. **Iraqi application decisions** (please make them!)

   Departments need to make decisions on accepting Iraqi students quickly or there will not be enough time to have everything in place for students to arrive for fall semester.

5. **Non-Resident Tuition Waivers**

   The Excellence Waiver is a new waiver for nonresident graduate students who have both a GPA and a set of national test scores that are higher than the average in their college. The waiver applies to all graduate programs, and is in addition to what the tuition waiver pool currently has. In November colleges/departments will receive the set of “standards” for fall 15 recruiting, based on Day 15 fall 13 enrollments.
6. **Department deadlines**

We are asking departments to please define for SGS what the admission deadlines mean. Is the deadline for completed applications? Or is the deadline for applications in with all required documents? Please talk to your departments and get back to Erin Anderson with what your deadlines really mean. It would also be helpful if department deadlines are explained on department webpages.

7. **Award nomination deadlines**

   a. Martin Luther King (April 2) – 2 @ $7,000 plus tuition for 9 credits for two semesters
   b. Dissertation (April 2) – 10 @ $5,000 plus tuition for 6 credits for two semesters (for some international students, we have paid 9 credits)
   c. Seely-Hinckley (April 16) – 8 awards, tuition for 9 credits for two semesters

8. **Commencement**

Please send Plan C, professional, and Plan B letters of completion to Joan Rudd as soon as possible. Students must have the proper paperwork in place in order to defend.

9. **GPC access & tools**

We will email the list to you, please make recommendations as to what you need.

10. **Degree Works tip**

If you have difficulties with Degree Works contact Joan Rudd (joan.rudd@usu.edu; 797-1187). If a student's degree is wrong, Joan can change it in Banner before the department enters the students POS.

11. **Full time enrollment, loan repayment**

Please be aware that students registered for less than 6 credits, are considered part-time students by the Federal government. Part-time status puts the student in repayment for loans.