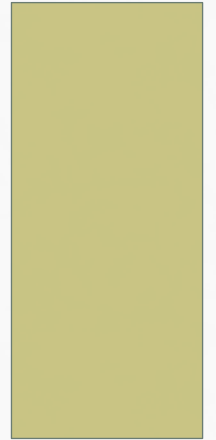


# GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: NOVEMBER 2011



# GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION

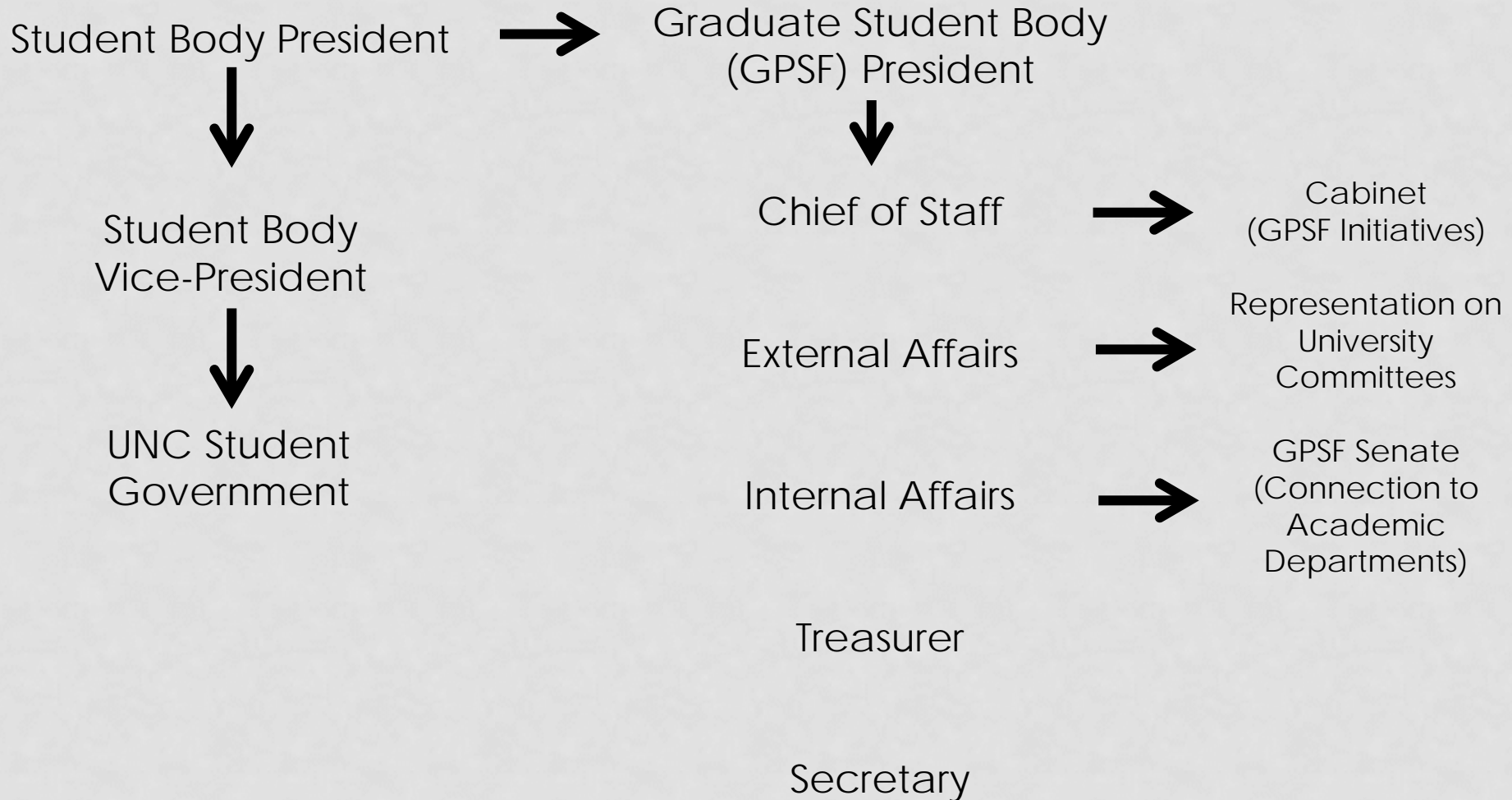
- The Graduate and Professional Student Federation is the arm of student government that represents all UNC-Chapel Hill graduate and professional students. We are here to:

**Advocate** for improved campus and community resources to campus administrators and state and federal legislatures.

**Collaborate** with the university administration, faculty, staff, and undergraduate students to create policies that respond to the particular needs and interests of all graduate and professional students.

**Connect** graduate and professional students both socially and intellectually across disciplines.

# WHERE DOES GPSF FIT IN STUDENT GOVERNANCE?



# GPSF ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

- Graduate/Professional Student Week of Welcome and Orientation (with the Graduate School and Carolina Union)
- Work with other Graduate Schools on Re-Instating the Tax-Exempt Status for Graduate Student Stipends
- Gathered Student Input on Proposed Fee Increases
- Conducting TA survey on the Honor System
- Residency Application Guide and Support System
- Eighth Annual University Research Day
- Information Outreach to Over 17,000 University Members on Graduate and Professional Student Issues and Initiatives

# CURRENT GPSF CAMPUS ISSUES

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

# FACULTY RETENTION AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

- We need the faculty
  - When the university does not give faculty incentive to stay, we lose mentors and advisors, people who were our reason for coming here in the first place
- The faculty need us
  - Without good graduate students (more than just those who can afford to be here), faculty cannot do their jobs adequately.
  - We teach many sections and labs, hold office hours, grade, and mentor. When UNC can no longer draw graduate students because they can't afford to come here, faculty have one less reason to stay.

# TUITION -WHAT THE 6.5% CAP MEANS

- Graduate students are already at the breaking point
  - No more subsidized loans – especially affecting professional students
  - FAFSA for graduate students counts as income
- Higher tuition costs departments more, which can affect other academic operations
- Tuition remission helps cover tuition costs for TAs and RAs, but as costs rise some of these positions are gone
- Fewer scholarship options for graduate and professional students = just more loan debt



# LOAN PROFILE OF PHARM D STUDENT

	Type of Loan	Loan Amount	Loan Date	Disbursed Amount	Canceled Amount	Outstanding Principal	Outstanding Interest
1	FFEL PLUS GRADUATE	\$29,500	08/07/2009	\$29,500	\$0	\$29,500	\$5,036
2	STAFFORD SUBSIDIZED	\$8,500	06/25/2009	\$8,500	\$0	\$8,500	\$0
3	STAFFORD UNSUBSIDIZED	\$12,000	06/25/2009	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$1,639
4	STAFFORD UNSUBSIDIZED	\$12,000	08/27/2008	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$2,438
5	STAFFORD SUBSIDIZED	\$8,500	08/27/2008	\$8,500	\$0	\$8,500	\$0
6	FFEL PLUS GRADUATE	\$20,000	08/27/2008	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$5,078
7	FFEL PLUS GRADUATE	\$13,000	08/31/2007	\$13,000	\$0	\$13,000	\$3,528
8	STAFFORD UNSUBSIDIZED	\$12,000	07/25/2007	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$1,225
9	STAFFORD SUBSIDIZED	\$8,500	07/25/2007	\$8,500	\$0	\$8,500	\$0
10	FFEL CONSOLIDATED	\$13,743	07/04/2007	\$13,743	\$0	\$13,743	\$4,150
11	FFEL PLUS GRADUATE	\$13,000	08/22/2006	\$13,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
12	STAFFORD UNSUBSIDIZED	\$10,000	08/15/2006	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$1,020
13	STAFFORD SUBSIDIZED	\$8,500	08/15/2006	\$8,500	\$0	\$8,500	\$0
14	FEDERAL PERKINS	\$10,000	08/14/2006	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
15	DIRECT CONSOLIDATED UNSUBSIDIZED	\$11,821	07/28/2006	\$11,681	\$0	\$11,681	\$1,015
16	DIRECT STAFFORD UNSUBSIDIZED	\$5,500	08/07/2005	\$5,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
17	DIRECT STAFFORD UNSUBSIDIZED	\$3,500	08/08/2004	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
18	DIRECT STAFFORD UNSUBSIDIZED	\$2,625	08/12/2003	\$2,625	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total FFEL PLUS GRADUATE</b>						<b>\$62,500</b>	<b>\$13,642</b>
<b>Total STAFFORD SUBSIDIZED</b>						<b>\$34,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total STAFFORD UNSUBSIDIZED</b>						<b>\$46,000</b>	<b>\$6,322</b>
<b>Total FFEL CONSOLIDATED</b>						<b>\$13,743</b>	<b>\$4,150</b>
<b>Total FEDERAL PERKINS</b>						<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total DIRECT CONSOLIDATED UNSUBSIDIZED</b>						<b>\$11,681</b>	<b>\$1,015</b>
<b>Total DIRECT STAFFORD UNSUBSIDIZED</b>						<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total All Loans</b>						<b>\$177,924</b>	<b>\$25,129</b>



# THE HARD TRUTH

- Currently, average repayment for pharmacy professional student \$200,000 +
- North Carolina retail pharmacist \$105,000 to 120,000/yr. **If 25% of salary dedicated to student loans, takes ~10 years to repay!**

2012 all federal loans are going to be unsubsidized

- Stafford Loans – 6.8% Interest Rate (4.7% - 6.8% in 5 years)

Grad NR	Tuition	Interest
<b>Loan Amount: \$150,000</b>		
<b>2012-13</b>	<b>23,924</b>	<b>160,200</b>
<b>2013-14</b>	<b>25,479</b>	<b>171,094</b>
<b>2014-15</b>	<b>27,135</b>	<b>182,728</b>
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>28,899</b>	<b>195,153</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,437</b>	
<b>Total Loan Increase:</b>		<b>45,153</b>

\*assumes 6.5% yearly tuition increase with 6.8% loan interest rate

# A STATE & NATIONAL ISSUE

- Graduate students understand due to cuts in state funding, tuition will have to increase. The university cannot control cuts in state funding.
- However, the University does control the magnitude of the tuition increase effort by which it investigates and secures other sources of revenue.
- We need to sustain Chapel Hill's reputation as a top university, but too large of a tuition means you may be prioritizing the university over its students.

# RESIDENCY

- Hard to get, even with new standards of evaluation in place
  - “Burden of Proof” has some suggestions, but hard to know the exact requirements
- Widely affects both graduate and professional students
  - No tuition remission available for many professional students
- Some departments are requiring graduate students to get residency or have their funding cut off

# STIPENDS

- Stipends haven't gone up since 2008
  - Fees go up to reflect HEPI standards, but our stipends are not raised to meet the cost of inflation
- The average graduate student assistantship stipend is ~\$16,000/year (minimum for tuition remission is \$14,700)
  - Students who do not have fee remission have smaller take-home salary
- International students generally are not eligible for outside employment
- Graduate students often have family obligations, such as spouses or children
  - Poverty level for single-parent with one child: \$14,710

# FEES

- Unfortunately, fees often go up, while stipends do not
- Departments/schools do not consistently pay fees for supported students
- We're getting close to the psychological boundary of \$1000/semester
- With the moratorium on special fees lifted, fees will continue to increase

# TESTIMONIALS

"I take home \$1263/month. In chemistry you work 60 hours/week. That means I take home \$5.26 per hour after taxes."

(Less than NC minimum wage)

- Chemistry PhD student

"We make just enough to live on, but not much beyond (and certainly not enough to buy each semester's books).

For those of us without family support (who can't afford a car, much travel, or television), even a small increase is an extraordinary amount of money."

- Religious Studies PhD student



# ACTION ITEMS

- Stipends
  - Find ways to provide an annual cost of living increase
  - Investigate methods to help keep fees affordable for students without hurting University operations
- Tuition
  - Strive to make increases predictable over the long term
  - Increase the availability of tuition remission
- Residency
  - Fight for increased process transparency
  - Help students applying in order to increase the first-time success rate
  - Decouple residency decisions from funding decisions in departments using this policy