May 26, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Since January 2004 the BSD has required that postdoctoral fellows annually receive a supplemental stipend to assist in the purchase of a benefits package roughly equivalent to that automatically enjoyed by postdoctoral scholars (including health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, and long-term disability coverage). We have required this for two reasons. First, postdoctoral fellows, unlike postdoctoral scholars, are not University of Chicago employees and, therefore, are not eligible for employee benefits.  Second, the requirement was established to remove any disincentive for our postdoctoral researchers to accept postdoctoral fellowship awards when their acceptance leads to a loss of employee benefits without any offsetting increase in income.

The supplemental stipend amount has not been increased in more than ten years while the cost of purchasing benefits has increased.  **Therefore, the supplemental stipend amounts will increase, effective July 1, 2016, based on the cost to purchase coverage.  For trainees that have fellowships that include funds for health insurance coverage the new supplemental stipend will increase from $1,600 to $1,800. For fellowships that do not include such funds, the new supplemental stipend will increase from $6,200 to $8,500.**

Paul

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