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AGENDA ITEM: 7 – E
DATE: April 2-3, 2025

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SUBJECT
FY26 Graduate Assistant Stipends

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY
SDCL § 13-53-6 – Tuition Rates and Fees
BOR Policy 5.5 – Tuition and Fees: General Procedures
BOR Policy 5.22 – Graduate Assistants and Fellows

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION
The Board of Regents sets a minimum stipend for graduate assistants each year. To receive full compensation for a semester, graduate assistants must work the entire semester. Similarly, to receive full compensation for the four-week summer session, they must work the entire session. If a graduate assistant does not complete the full semester or summer session, the stipend may be prorated accordingly.

DSU, SDSMT, and SDSU currently waive tuition for their graduate assistants and fellows as compensation for their work; therefore, the salary minimum does not apply to those three institutions.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
The Board has traditionally adjusted the minimum stipend for graduate assistants in line with the rate of increase in resident graduate tuition, rounded to the nearest dollar. For FY26, tuition increased by 2.9%, so the stipend amount will be increased by the same percentage.

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DRAFT MOTION 20250402_7-E:
I move approval of the BHSU and NSU FY26 minimum graduate assistant stipends in the amount of $4,035 per semester and $1,008 per four-week session; and USD FY26 minimum graduate assistant stipends in the amount of $4,185 per semester and $1,045 per four-week session.

Black Hills State University (BHSU) and Northern State University (NSU)

Graduate Assistant Stipends	FY25 Rate	$ Increase	% Increase	FY26 Rate
Per Semester	$3,921	$114	2.9%	$4,035
Per 4-Week Session	$980	$28	2.9%	$1,008

University of South Dakota (USD)

Graduate Assistant Stipends	FY25 Rate	$ Increase	% Increase	FY26 Rate
Per Semester	$4,067	$118	2.9%	$4,185
Per 4-Week Session	$1,016	$29	2.9%	$1,045

ATTACHMENTS
None