Current MS student support:

Funding not guaranteed by GSBS.

Students accept offer of admission with the understanding that they are self-funded unless they can identify an advisor that can provide financial support.

Faculty advisors may provide financial support by paying a stipend of 15K-32K (plus benefits) and/or tuition (students receiving any level of stipend are eligible for reduced in-state tuition). This decision is currently completely under the control of the Faculty member.

Students may participate in outside employment

Proposal:

Funding not guaranteed by GSBS.

Students accept offer of admission with the understanding that they are self-funded until they identify an advisor.

Faculty taking an MS student must provide a minimal level of support roughly tagged to Houston cost of living up to a maximum stipend equal to what PhD students receive (stipend range of 24K-32K plus benefits and tuition).

Students have the prerogative to waive this support (for example: in the case of MDA/UTH employees)

Students who accept financial support (GRA) from their advisor may not participate in outside employment.

Rationale:

MS students are taking classes with and carrying out research in labs along with our PhD students.

Completing a MS thesis project in 2-3 years requires full time effort in the lab and students should be provided a stipend for this time/effort.

While this may limit the number of labs willing/able to take an MS student, currently, 26 of our 36 MS students already receive this level of stipend (9 additional MS students are not currently paid a stipend or hold an employee position at MDA/UTH).

To address the above concern, fewer MS offers of admission may be made to ensure all entering MS students have a lab to join that is able to provide the proposed level of support.

New required Stipend Range proposal costs to faculty:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stipend</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits (28%)</td>
<td>6,720</td>
<td>8,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>5,818</td>
<td>5,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,538</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,778</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>