

**Subject:** Student Funding Working Group  
**From:** Christina Lopez <christina.lopez@utoronto.ca>  
**Date:** Thu, 27 Oct 2005 06:15:17 -0400  
**To:** MSC-PHDHA-L@LISTSERV.UTORONTO.CA

Colleagues:

During the past year, several students and supervisors have told me about difficulties they have encountered in ensuring that student support funding from external sources flows to the students in a timely way. Most of the difficulties seem to be related to grants which come through the Office of Research Services, although there has been the occasional question about the U of T funding 'guarantee' as well.

I have sought advice from the Chair, the MSc/PhD Advisory Committee, and the Student Union about how to tackle the reported problems. As a result of these consultations, a small working group has been struck to review past cases in which our students have been poorly served by current funding procedures and to bring forward proposals which might improve those procedures.

I will chair the working group and I have asked Robin Hurst to be a member. The Student Union has asked that Christopher Klinger and Onil Bhattacharyya serve as the student representatives. The four of us will begin our work by fact-finding, so we are writing not only to let you know about our task, but also to ask you to send us examples of difficulties and problems you have encountered as well as suggestions about how to remedy those difficulties. You may send your 'case studies' and your suggestions to me at [john.browne@utoronto.ca](mailto:john.browne@utoronto.ca)

We will keep you posted as our work progresses.

John Browne  
Director, MSc/PhD program