Re: Teaching Assistants for AY 2020-2021
Date: August 1, 2020

The following policies and guidelines relate to teaching assistants at Yale SOM.

The standard compensation for a TA is $3,374 per full-semester course ($1,687 per half-semester course). Normally, faculty are entitled to 1 TA for every 30 students enrolled in their course and that TA is expected to work 10 hours per week on average. Prorating begins at 25 or 35, respectively, so the standard compensation remains constant between 25 and 35 students.

The way in which this rule is implemented varies with the instructor. For example, if an instructor is teaching a course with an enrollment of 40 students, he or she may choose to hire 1 standard TA and 1 TA at the 1/3 rate, 2 TAs at the 2/3 rate, or cover the course with a single, standard TA if the work can be done in 10 hours per week. Similarly, courses with fewer than 25 students are entitled to a prorated share of a TA. For example, a course with 20 students is entitled to 2/3 of a standard TA and that TA will be expected to work 2/3 the time for 2/3 the pay. Please inform AASL and your TAs of the nature of their work arrangement in advance of your course.

The primary responsibilities of a TA are (i) grading and (ii) some combination of the following:

- Attending class to support classroom activities and technologies
- Supporting administrative needs for the course, such as Canvas and Zoom
- Advising students, inside or outside of the classroom
- Offering discussion sections outside of regular class hours
- Other course-related duties as prescribed by the instructor

It is not acceptable to use teaching assistants as research assistants. Such cases will automatically be charged to your research account.

If a TA will be required to attend class, it is important to confirm their availability prior to hiring. TAs may not skip classes in which they are enrolled as students to fulfill work obligations. Responsibilities other than grading should also be noted in advance so TAs can obtain the necessary training (Canvas, e.g.)

Irrespective of how TAs will be used, they may not exceed 10 hours of work per week, or more than 1 TA assignment at any given time, without the express permission of AASL. Students may never serve as a TA for a course in which they’re auditing or enrolled for credit.