

Comments from the  
*CGS Focus Group*

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**NSF/NIH/CGS GRADUATE SUPPORT  
WORKSHOP**

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# **CGS Focus Group Meeting – *Issues and Questions***

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- **Breakfast meeting of 17, largely  
Graduate Deans**
- **Broad consensus on issues, less on  
solutions**

# CGS Focus Group Meeting – *Issues and Questions*

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- *Deep Pocket Issues*
- *Shallow Pocket Issues*

# CGS Focus Group Meeting – *Deep Pocket Issues*

- ***Stipends***
  - **First year support**
  - **Disparities between NSF Fellows, IGERT and GK-12 and normal RA funding**
  - **Stipend influence on grad students vs. post-docs**
  - **Question of grant size**

# CGS Focus Group Meeting – *Deep Pocket Issues (cont.)*

- *Health insurance*
  - Increasing important for both domestic and international students
  - One university found it a key to successful recruitment
  - Increasing number of married students => family coverage

# CGS Focus Group Meeting – *Shallow Pocket Issues*

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- ***Communities -***
  - Social communities within departments**
  - **Study groups (first year students)**
  - **First year Fellows - some program elements**

# CGS Focus Group Meeting – *Shallow Pocket Issues*

- ***Communities***

- **TAs – program elements**
- **RAs – issues of mentoring, of independent research, or**
- **International Students**
- **“When I earn my degree, then what?”**

# CGS Focus Group Meeting – *Issues and Questions*

- *Deep Pocket Issues identified*
  - Funding sources uncertain, but:
    - **Typical RA stipends must be increased to “move towards” NSF Fellow support**
    - **Health Insurance must be provided**
- *Shallow Pocket Issues identified*
  - **Building a variety of supportive programs - “best practices” not fully identified**