Summary of AGCCS TA Survey

CoS Departments Responding: 10
Psychology, Chemistry/Biochemistry, EEB, Physics, Geoscience, Atmospheric Science, Tree Ring, Mathematics, Computer Science, Astronomy

CoS Departments Not Responded:
Planetary Science, MCB, Hydrology, SLHS, Neuroscience

TA requirements:
2/10 departments responding require 2 semesters of TAship
8/10 have no TA requirement

Ability to be Instructor of Record:
-5.5 departments say grad student can be “instructor of record”, though 2 stipulate -only during summer session
-3.5 say no
-1 blank

Training Provided by Department before TA (in addition to TATO/GATO):
-3 day workshop focused on teaching effectiveness (Math)
-2 weeks of training including safety and lab teaching/grading skills (Chemistry)
-3-4 3hr training sessions, focused mainly on uniform grading standards (Physics)
-7 departments = none

Training/Support Provided by Department During TA:
- One credit teaching workshop during first semester, meets once per week (Math)
- Teaching supervisor assigned every semester (Math)
- Instructional Lab Managers (“TA bosses”) hold weekly staff meetings (Chem)
- For introductory class, head TA provides course material and training (EEB)
-7 departments = none, or just administrative privileges like access to copier

Benefits:
-Helps learn material/solidify basic foundation in your discipline
-Builds comfort in teaching
-Builds essential communication skills
-Builds time management skills
-Build skill set not emphasized in research curriculum
-Helps build language skills for non-native speakers
-good for CV

Complaints/Criticisms:
-less helpful for career than teaching your own class
-reduces research output
-lack of preparation (sink or swim)
-expectations not well laid out
- Excessive grading requirements
- Large variation in responsibilities/time commitment among TAs in the same department
- Only serves to “pay the bills”
- Too few TAs for large classes
- No time/resources to make curricular improvements/updates
- Very difficult to balance with first year course requirements
- Very little freedom to modify course materials

**TA duties:**

**Frequency of Duties for CoS TAships**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duties</th>
<th>all/most TAs</th>
<th>some TAs</th>
<th>none/few TAs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grading</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policing</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab/Recitation</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proctoring</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other duties:**

Some TAs in EEB perform:
- Field trips
- Lesson plan development

All/Most Chem TAs:
- Write quizzes and final
- Tutoring

**Do TAs in your departments generally feel that TAing is a beneficial experience?**
**Have you heard any complaints or suggestions for improvement?**
Responses were compiled and investigated to form the list of recommendations in our letter