

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

October 10, 2011

Dear Johns Hopkins University Ph.D. Students:

From our founding in 1876, graduate education has been at the core of our university's mission to propel discovery through the intersection of revolutionary research and transformative teaching. As doctoral students, you advance research and scholarship. You inspire undergraduates and one another to new levels of understanding. You unite our departments and schools through your entrepreneurial interdisciplinary studies, spurring previously unimagined collaborations.

For each of you, your Ph.D. years are a time of extraordinary transformation. During your studies, you pass from completing early coursework to writing – and rewriting – your dissertation. But most significantly, you begin as students, and end as scholars, carrying out your own independent research and poised to impact your disciplines for years to come. Such a remarkable transition is intensely personal, and is often guided by close interaction with a faculty mentor. The relationship between advisor and student can be the linchpin of a challenging and satisfying graduate career. In the best cases, it is rooted in common intellectual endeavor, and nurtured by effective communication.

To foster such successful connections, the Doctor of Philosophy Board has produced the statement of rights and responsibilities for Ph.D. students (available at http://web.jhu.edu/administration/provost/docs/Rights_Responsibilities_Final.pdf). The statement is not intended as a legal document, but rather as an avenue for setting our common expectations for students and advisors across our university. Each Ph.D.-granting school has specific policies that govern their students' doctoral education. Going forward, all have agreed to ensure that their policies are consistent with the ideas expressed here.

Bolstered by advisors' commitment to the rights of students, and students' recognition of their scholarly responsibilities, Ph.D. education at Johns Hopkins will continue to achieve ever greater levels of excellence – for our students, for our University, and indeed, for our world.

We wish you the best as your semester continues.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Daniels and Lloyd B. Minor