

Members

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Recommendations

1. Increase support for graduate-student research to \$150,000 per year.

The present \$25,000 fund, administered by Graduate Student Senate, is so inadequate that it is distributed by lottery. The above increased support could annually fund up to 100 graduate students who competitively apply to undertake research travel and attend conferences (\$1,000 each), and 20 who competitively apply for research and creativity grants (\$2,500 each).

2. Increase the net financial support for all graduate students.

The team suggested a coordinated approach to increase financial support for GAs by increasing stipends and fellowships while decreasing required fees. The goal is to reduce the general fee for all graduate students, especially GAs, to \$100 a quarter; to raise stipends to the midrange of our peer institutions; to increase the five named graduate fellowships from \$13,000 to \$20,000; and to add five more named fellowships at \$20,000 each.

3. Establish a Graduate College.

The primary purpose of this new unit would be to provide a more effective advocate for graduate education and to work with the Academic Leadership Group, Graduate Council, Graduate Student Senate, departments, schools, and colleges to set Universitywide priorities for graduate education. The expected investment is \$90,000 per year.

Accomplishments

• One-time increase in graduate research funding.

While the request for the increase in graduate research funds is in the pipeline and will be presented during the budget hearings in February and March, the provost has temporarily supported this recommendation by allotting \$25,000 extra in one-time funds for graduate research in the fall of 2006.

• Proposal submitted for increased stipend and fellowship funding.

The associate provost for graduate studies has submitted a proposal to the provost for \$400,000 a year to increase stipends and fellowships. The provost will prioritize the request and present it to the Budget Planning Council in the next two months.

• Meetings in progress to consider a Graduate College.

The provost's Graduate Studies staff has met with college associate deans to discuss such issues as structure, budget, and the transition process were a Graduate College to be formed. The issues continue to be studied, and the budget developed by the staff and deans will be considered by the Budget Planning Council in upcoming hearings.

The Future

Some of the Graduate Priorities Implementation Team's recommendations are dependent on the development of other programs. Below is one example of this situation:

• Create a Preparing-Future-Faculty Program.

This will be part of the new Faculty Development Program, which awaits the hiring of a new director for the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL); the search for that director is now under way. The program would be housed in the CTL and would be dedicated to developing teaching assistants and other interested graduate students into successful college teachers. The investment is estimated at \$60,000 for a director and \$35,000 for operating expenses annually.

FOUNDERS DAY

