11.6.20

Graduate Education Task Force Report

Original list of primary recommendations from executive summary. Comments provided to share progress and proposed actions plus lead office(s).

1. Provide to graduate students resources to support enhanced numbers of student-initiated research proposals. Initial discussions underway with faculty already providing workshops and interested faculty. Identify resources; web resources. Graduate School and OVPRI. Other Resources: Scaleup program on NSF GFRP led by Meryl Mims (Meryl expressed interest in expanded role), Biological Sciences; Profs. Margie Lee and Glenda Gillaspy (Dept. Heads of Biomedical Sciences & Pathology (CVM), and Biochemistry (CALS), respectively) have knowledge and passion around this issue and should be involved as well.

2. Make a focused effort to solicit donations for endowed graduate fellowships. A proposal to raise $75M in the next Campaign was submitted to Advancement and a plan is being finalized. DePauw and Mike Moyer.

3. Increase the number and scope of self-funded graduate programs. Initial discussions in progress. Graduate School and College Deans

4. Implement a modified version of the Candidacy Status resolution passed by the University Council in spring 2019. Resolution and implementation details to be presented to the BOV in March 2021. Budget office and Graduate School.

5. Expand mentorship training to include all new assistant professors. Identify college liaisons and advocates to initiate the plan to be implemented at the college level. Graduate School and College Deans. Other resources: COE mentorship program leaders; Jack Lesko, David Knight, Trey Waller, Walter Lee

6. Implement 360º feedback for tenure-track faculty (TTF). Graduate School to convene representatives of faculty senate and GSA to begin the process.

7. Implement a Professional Development Graduate Certificate. Preliminary plans underway with input from CGPSP and others. Graduate School (Edgar)

8. Increase the minimum assistantship stipend rate to match the minimum rates of Virginia Tech's aspirational peers. Dashboard in development for share data initially and then determine appropriate next steps. Graduate School and Colleges.

9. Annually compare graduate stipend rates to our peers, and create incentives for colleges to maintain competitive rates. Dashboard in development for share data initially and then determine appropriate next steps. Graduate School and Colleges.

10.   Develop standard phrasing to properly convey intentions to employ graduate students for multiple years. Currently in progress with initial efforts by the Graduate School in consultation with the College Deans.

11.   Enhance Office of Sponsored Programs support to faculty preparing research funding proposals. Collaboration between Graduate School and OVPRI to begin this Fall with initial conversation.

12.   Co-locate OSP staff in colleges and enhance agency-specific expertise and relationships. Referred to OVPRI for consideration this Fall. Graduate School and OVPRI.

13.   Adopt a hybrid model where the Graduate School assists departments and programs to improve graduate recruiting. Graduate School and specifically GS Office of Recruitment, Diversity and Inclusion (ORDI) to enhance current efforts in conjunction with departments/programs/colleges. Graduate School, Colleges, Enrollment Management.

14.   Enhance the role of the Graduate School in graduate program review and evaluation for continuous improvement. Need to facilitate more discussion with Academic Assessment office to explore possibilities and secure meaningful engagement with graduate program review.