

4-2-21

Graduate Education Task Force Recommendations Progress

Primary recommendations from executive summary.

Status and plans indicated below. Green text indicates largely complete, red not started, yellow highlighting indicates under way.

1. Provide to graduate students resources to support enhanced numbers of student-initiated research proposals. Working group has met and identified key issues and goals. Website is under construction (Monica/KJE). Data has been gathered on ongoing instructional programs for students. Remaining work; work with colleges and departments to initiate more instructional programs to build capacity (KJE). Obtain agreement from VPRI and Provost to eliminate financial penalties (KDP).
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 being finalized; BOV has approved for staged implementation. Work to improve overall prelim practices is under way (WH).
5. Expand mentorship training to include all new assistant professors. Creating train-the-trainer plan and discussing implementation with colleges (KJE). Conversations under way with COE and CIMER on implementation mechanics. Graduate School and College Deans. Other resources: COE mentorship program leaders.
6. Implement 360° feedback for tenure-track faculty (TTF). Consideration by Faculty Senate with input from GSA. Write proposal, determine rough cost, present to Faculty Senate and Provost (KJE). Get license and cost info on currently used instrument.
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 sharing data initially

and then determine appropriate next steps. Graduate School and Colleges (KJE, KDP, Kacy Lawrence).

9. Annually compare graduate stipend rates to our peers, and create incentives for colleges to maintain competitive rates. Dashboard in development for sharing data initially and then determine appropriate next steps. Graduate School and Colleges (KJE, KDP, Kacy Lawrence).

10. Develop standard phrasing to properly convey intentions to employ graduate students for multiple years. Draft created; will be shared with GPDs for feedback at next mtg, then edited version will be sent to colleges/departments/programs for their use as they choose (KJE).

11. Enhance Office of Sponsored Programs support to faculty preparing research funding proposals. Work towards this end is under way led by OVPRI and OSP.

12. Co-locate OSP staff in colleges and enhance agency-specific expertise and relationships. OVPRI considering as part of their staffing plan and requests. 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. Provost sending letter to Academic Assessment office to initiate meaningful engagement with graduate school in graduate program review. Details and schedule to be worked out, including integration with external reviews so as to eliminate any extra burden on programs. (KDP)