Summary Recommendations from Graduate School Review Team’s Report and Task Force Report on Needs of Graduate Students in the Humanities, Arts, and the Social Sciences Conducting Scholarly Activities
Deans Council
September 18, 2014

(Please note that the Task Force Recommendations begins on page 10 of the Report. The number and letter beside each recommendation identifies the page number and report (RT-Review Team and TF-Task Force)

**Recommendations from Both Reports**

A. Financial support of graduate students (RT4,TF10)
   - Tuition waivers (or remission) for graduate research assistants
   - Increased stipends for both graduate assistants (GTAs/GRAs/GAs)
     - Plans are needed to address the stipends in competitive areas
   - Increase number of assistantships available
   - Consistent and sustainable graduate research assistant tuition remission policy
   - Institutional guidelines should be developed for minimum stipends at each level of appointment with annual increases built in.

B. Space and Place (RT5;TF11)
   - Graduate Space and Sense of Place (Graduate Student Center)
     - Collocates the Graduate School and Graduate Student Council activities with space for a Graduate Student Life Center
   - Physical Resource Hub (Graduate Student Center and Computing Lab)
     - Dedicated computing laboratory with software utilized by multiple disciplines installed
     - Meeting spaces
     - Common area to encourage engagement among student across disciplines
     - Promote a sense of community
     - Place for interdisciplinary research group meeting
     - Promote casual interaction through brown bag lunches, study break or to feel at home.

**Unique Recommendations from Consultants Report**

C. In coordination with the Provost, the Graduate Dean should reach out and engage primary stakeholders individually and together to formulate a communication and collaboration plan so the whole enterprise has the same shared vision and commitment as to how the graduate enterprise will meet the needs of K-State 2025. (RT3)

D. Staffing (RT2)
   - Review existing staff and their responsibilities and ensure the most effective organization.
   - Associate Deans positions (2 0.5 FTE)
   - Increase number GRAs in Graduate School
• Consider restructuring admissions and advising staff from a task-focus to a department focus.

E. We recommend removing Faculty Senate from the review and approval process for graduate courses and degrees. (RT6-7)

F. Institutional policy requiring grants to include tuition or the PI’s department pay tuition for graduate assistants funded from grants that do not allow the inclusion of tuition. (RT4)

G. Institutional plan for graduate education, developed by the Graduate School with participation of stakeholders, that provides a rolling three year vision of new programs and initiatives. (RT3)

H. Graduate Fund Raising---partnership with K-State administrators to affirm its importance to the donor community (RT5)

I. Expand professional development initiatives by the Graduate School and the Graduate Student Council. (RT6)

J. Recommend ways to support growth of the number of core ‘active’ GSC members from the current 10-15, in anticipation of future growth in GS/GSC initiatives. (TF6)

K. Establish metrics for the graduate programs can use to benchmark their programs and monitor progress. Examples include graduate retention, completion, time-to-degree, and placement data. (RT6)

L. Reduce disciplinary barriers and silos on campus to enhance interdisciplinary research and graduate degrees. (RT6)

**Unique Recommendations from Task Force**

M. Travel Support Grants(TF10)
   • Expand current program so it is inclusive of all disciplines

N. Small Research Grant Opportunities (equivalent to USRG for Faculty) (TF10)

O. Software and Supplies (TF10)
   • Statistical packages (SPS, mplus, AMO)
   • Software (Photo Shop, Illustrator, InDesign, etc.)
   • Software for developing teaching resources (Camtasia, Power Point, etc.)
   • Online support for learning software though a university subscription (Example: Lydia.com)

P. On-line Resource Hub (TF11)
   • Review navigation on Graduate School website so students and faculty can find resources more easily
o Add “robust” offering of information through a wiki, links, etc.
o Development and maintenance of a common resource listing potential
conferences, exhibit opportunities, competitions, and other venues for the peer
evaluation of research, scholarly, and creative activity to be included in the “hub”.

Q. Networking, Professional Development, and Career Opportunities Resources (TF12)
o Teaching and Learning
  ▪ Workshops to prepare students for academic career including advertising
    seminars/workshops offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning
  ▪ Panels on expectations for academic careers
o Research Methods
  ▪ Comprehensive list of methodology courses of different types available
    across campus
  ▪ Develop workshops or seminars to introduce social science research
    methodologies and resources
o Research Forum
  ▪ Expand Graduate Research Forum over a two day period with one day developed
    to scholarly and creative works that is not in a traditional poster or paper
    presentation format and may have differing spatial and acoustical needs.
  ▪ Expand current research forum to be inclusive of all types of scholarly and
    creative activities

R. Communication and Enhancement of Underutilized Resources (TF12)
o Inclusiveness
o Notice of Funding Opportunities/Enhance notices of fellowships and foundation
  funding to support varied work of the disciplines in the Humanities, Arts, and
  Social Sciences
o Specific links to support services for graduate students (i.e., Career and
  Employment Services