Table Discussion #2
President's Fall Retreat
August 14, 2018

Participants' Comments

Q: Does the draft plan include actions that will promote the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in the graduate population?
A: Yes, the plan includes a recommendation and a number of actions that will ensure the university recruits and retains a diverse student population.
Q: How will the proposed improvements to the graduate student experience complement and build upon current department and college programs and services?
A: The proposed actions in the draft plan will be implemented in consultation with college deans, department chairs, graduate coordinators, faculty, and students. The introduction of new or expanded graduate services are intended to support and enhance current college and department efforts.
Q: Will the draft plan include a campus process for considering and introducing new graduate programs as well as supporting the promotion of existing programs.
A: Yes, the plan includes an action item that will develop an integrated and transparent process for considering the introduction of new award programs and the promotion of existing programs.

Graduate Enrollment Management and Graduate Assistant Plan

The Graduate Enrollment Management and Graduate Assistant Plan (GEMGAP) workgroup held five work sessions during the spring and summer of 2018 and completed a draft plan based on the following charge:

- Enhance support for graduate students and faculty
- Establish and recommend actions to meet graduate enrollment targets
- Increase the diversity of the graduate student population
- Recommend improvements to the graduate assistant program
- Increase the reach and impact of the University's graduate programs
- Promote and strategically market graduate programs

Highlights of plan recommendations that will promote graduate student success

Develop a financial model that provides the resources needed to implement the graduate enrollment management and graduate assistant plan and sustain support for graduate programs, graduate students, and graduate faculty.

Adopt recruitment and retention strategies that support a diverse population of graduate students and increase the number of underrepresented students.

Improve the processes and procedures associated with graduate student recruitment, admission, induction, and award completion, including the introduction of new practices and the increased use of technology.

Improve the graduate assistant experience by focusing on improvements to the process and procedures associated with the recruitment, orientation, supervision, and professional development of students.

Enhance the impact of the university and advance the campus culture of research, scholarship, and creative achievement of faculty and students by more effectively highlighting their accomplishments and through increased levels of support.

Use data to make strategic decisions related to graduate education, including the optimal mix of graduate programs and awards, enrollment management, level of program support, and promotion of programs.

Some noteworthy proposed action items that will promote graduate student success

Implement a **comprehensive graduate student orientation** that introduces students to the University and their academic programs.

Establish a **Graduate Student Center** that creates a graduate focal point and fosters a graduate student sense of community and a **Graduate Research Symposium.**

Provide additional support for **graduate student travel** and funds to support **costs associated with students' creative and scholarly work.**

Establish new and refine current **procedures related to the GA enterprise,** including a mechanism for maintaining the competitiveness of GA awards; a shared process for recruiting, selecting, and appointing graduate assistants; and uniform training, orientation, supervision, and support of graduate assistants.

For updates, more information, or to submit comments on the draft plan, visit the soon to be live webpage at the following link: http://devweb2-grad.its.mnsu.edu/gsr/gemgap/

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