

University Graduate Council Meeting (11/13/2014)  
President and Provost

Notes: Issues and Action

University Graduate Council Chair Dr. Paul Peluso welcomed President John Kelly and Provost Gary Perry. Dr. Peluso stated that the Graduate College structure "works" at FAU and that the Graduate College staff "work" for graduate faculty to support graduate recruitment, programs, students, success and graduation. During the discussion with the committee, it was noted that for FAU to move beyond regional university status, an investment in graduate programs, students and support is imperative or FAU will simply fail to be competitive.

Specific solutions were discussed; with the following topic areas and commensurate actions discussed.

1. Issue: Graduate Student Research Receives no funding/has no funding mechanism

FAU has a successful undergraduate research initiative, but no funds are allocated for graduate student research. The GPSA (graduate student government) administers almost 100K each year for graduate students to attend conferences and present research, but no funds are available to support their research. A pilot student research grant initiative (GRIP) was presented that was endorsed Fall, 2014 by the University Faculty Senate and the University Graduate Council. A total of 74K is needed to pilot a program to support graduate student research.

Required Action:

- ¥ President Kelly committed \$74,000 (\$60,000 for grant program and \$14,000 for graduate assistantship) immediately to fund pilot year of Graduate Research and Inquiry Program (GRIP)- awards Spring 2015. The program will be administered through the Graduate College in consultation with GPSA, the Graduate Council and others.
  - ¥ Dr. Deborah Floyd (interim dean, Graduate College) agreed to follow -up with the University Development office regarding establishing a fund that will also support graduate student research.
  - ¥ Support of graduate student research will be included in the University's strategic plan.
2. Issue: Graduate student stipends and recruitment packages are not competitive .

Graduate Assistant, GTA, and GRA stipends have not increased in over a decade FAU is unable to offer competitive graduate student assistantship stipends, fellowships and health insurance due to lack of funds. As a result, virtually every program at FAU is losing top candidates every year as a result of not being

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competitive. If FAU wants to increase the number of full-time students in masters and doctoral programs, the number graduate assistantship opportunities must be increased (only 912 students are recorded as receiving assistantship waivers Fall 2014).

Required Action:

- ¥ The Graduate College Dean will work with the Graduate Council, staff and leadership to provide President Kelly with projected costs of providing competitive stipends

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several years because it is customized for each program and includes extensive faculty involvement. When the Division of Research and the Graduate College

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