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The New Normal for Graduate Education
Break-Out Group Report
Fran Teague, Facilitator

Group Members: Ruth Bettendorff, Brian Buck, Elizabeth Davis, Carole Henry, Yilin Hou, Julie Kittleson, John Maerz, Jay Mancini, Libby Morris, Henry Munneke, Craig Piercy

In the current environment, the following factors are givens for graduate education:

Change is widespread:

- In graduate students (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity, geography)
- In purpose (e.g., different disciplines, varying degree programs, consumer expectations)
- In resources (e.g., fewer funds, more technology, more assessment/accountability)

Quality must be prioritized:

- A research university must maintain high quality programs and ask its students to do high quality work.
 - we may produce produce credentials; we do produce scholarship
 - we may compete with other graduate programs (public, private, proprietary); we must remain vigorous
 - we may grow in size; we will grow in quality

Opportunities abound:

- To teach graduate students in new ways
 - to help faculty master new ways of doing their jobs
 - to encourage graduate students in new ways
 - to explain the importance of graduate education in new ways to new audiences

Two important priorities emerged from discussion:

1. Graduate students are perhaps the most neglected population in this economic crisis and we must do a better job of supporting and nurturing graduate students.
2. In order to better support and nurture graduate students, we must work to create a “culture” of graduate school.

Goal: To seize whatever opportunities we can to offer the highest quality graduate education in a changing world.

Short-term and low cost recommendations:

- spotlight graduate students and publicize their work more prominently on the UGA main Web site and at Honors Day
- create a Web portal for graduate students to create links to their academic blogs and Web sites and online publications, in order to foster connections and facilitate conversation between graduate students
- foster intentional awareness of the branch campus graduate students
- facilitate an interdisciplinary colloquium/symposium for graduate student research
- increase recruitment for Fulbright scholarships
- create a Faculty Learning Community on graduate education through the CTL

Mid-range goals:

- find an interim physical space for graduate student life center in Tate or MLC
- develop more study abroad opportunities for graduate students
- establish a journal to publish graduate student work

Long-term and requiring more substantial financial investment

- establish a permanent graduate student life center with a commons/lounge, technical resources, a writing center dedicated to graduate students, a graduate student career center