

QEP INITIATIVES SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Initiatives Sub-Committee recommends consideration of one or more of the following by the full QEP Committee:

Graduate Education Resource Center: Establish a Graduate Education Resource Center to build on the Graduate School's current efforts to serve as a "one-stop shop" for questions, training (e.g., on topics such as writing, public speaking, time management), and connection to campus resources via partnerships that are cultivated to meet the specialized needs of doctoral students.

- Will involve allocation of office space that is accessible to graduate students and can accommodate a small staff with the potential of growth over time.
- Will involve multiple staff positions, some of whom may liaison with or be assigned to specific academic support units that are positioned to promote doctoral student success (e.g., Career Center, University Libraries, Reading-Writing Center, Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Institutional Research).
- Will involve building collaboration and developing key partnerships related to issues, barriers, and needs identified in the student survey.
- May involve working with the Graduate School to help coordinate advisor information and resources that promote strong mentoring and guidance for doctoral students (which could include a doctoral student progression tool).
- ***Focus on Student Success:*** *Decrease the time from candidacy to degree completion by improving student skills and eliminating barriers to timely completion.*

Graduate Student Teaching Enhancement: Establish ongoing support and expectations for graduate students' development as teachers, to enrich the work they do in FSU classrooms, build their confidence, deepen their pedagogical knowledge and skills, and increase their marketability.

- Will involve additional resources for programming within the Center for the Advancement of Teaching.
- Will involve more ongoing teaching development and support for TAs with an expansion of services already provided by the Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE).
- May involve development of a teaching certificate or teaching in the discipline courses where those do not already exist.
- Could be included as a smaller initiative under the Graduate Education Resource Center rather than a separate initiative.
- ***Focus on Improving Student Learning:*** *Demonstrate familiarity with pedagogy in general and with the methods of the specific discipline; OR*
- ***Focus on Student Success:*** *Enhance the job-market success of graduates by developing their expertise in teaching and communication.*

Doctoral Student Council on Research & Creativity: Establish a competitive internal grant program for doctoral student funding that promotes high-quality research and creative projects and/or enables related travel to present or exhibit work at conferences or professional meetings.

- Will be modeled after FSU's Council on Research and Creativity (CRC) and include doctoral student representation on the selection committee which is another valuable learning experience.
- ***Focus on Student Success:*** Increase the number of creative works, including articles, performances, presentations, and exhibits by doctoral students before completion of the degree.

Implement Online Doctoral Progression Tracking Tool: Launch an online doctoral student progression tracking tool that builds on an existing FSU prototype (GradPhile) to collect and share more timely and nuanced faculty feedback with doctoral students along completion of program milestones.

- Potential to enhance the annual review process and the quality of advising and mentoring, both of which would benefit from more timely and useful feedback which students requested in the survey and faculty commented on in focus groups.
- Some concern about meeting the QEP's ambitious assessment schedule with a technology project that could be delayed by implementation challenges. Could this be rolled under the graduate education resource center?
- ***Focus on Success:*** Decrease the attrition of doctoral students in the years from candidacy to graduation by providing more timely and nuanced feedback on performance and achievement of milestones.