

## Graduate College Annual Report 2014-15

### Goals:

1. Increase the attention and resources targeted to recruiting graduate students.

In progress. The Graduate College Dean and Associate Dean met with each graduate program director individually to prepare a plan for increasing the quantity and quality of graduate students entering their respective programs. The result of these meetings was a targeted enrollment goal for each program and an additional \$42,000 in support to meet those targets. We will see in September whether or not this approach has borne fruit.

2. Increase the professional development opportunities afforded to graduate students.

In progress. To increase professional development opportunities for graduate students, we created a professional development series of workshops led by subject matter experts on issues such as leadership development, the job search process, and social media presence. Workshop topics were selected based upon a needs assessment survey administered to graduate students. Given that attendance is not as rich as desired, we will be reworking this series to accommodate the needs of the graduate students better.

3. Promote and showcase research and scholarship among graduate students.

In progress. Three major initiatives were undertaken this academic year to promote and showcase research and scholarship among graduate students. The first was a “3-minute Thesis” competition available to all students working on a thesis or capstone experience, requiring the student to present his/her scholarship in a public forum within a three minute time constraint. This, by the way, is an international competition begun in Australia in 2007. Thirteen competitors entered the contest and the winner competed at the Southern Conference of Graduate Schools in New Orleans against students (both doctoral level and masters’ level) across the southeast. Second, a new Graduate Research Fellowship Program was piloted in spring 2014 with 10 students and in spring 2015 with 12 students. We are assessing the program for the first time this year to determine whether to institutionalize the program annually in the future. At the upcoming Student Engagement Forum, special sessions have been structured for Graduate Research Fellows to share their research outcomes and experience. Third, we rolled out a new Graduate Professional Development Travel Grant Program this year, providing \$50,000 annually in graduate student travel awards for presentation at state, regional, national, and international

conferences. This funding represents significant expansion of the amount of funding previously allocated to graduate student travel.

4. Improve the efficiency of interacting with the Research Compliance Office.

In progress. Obtained funding to upgrade the IRB software for human subjects research projects. We are very close to having a new software program to replace our current IRBNet program that most users find unintuitive. In the process of selecting a new vendor, we asked several research experienced faculty to “test drive” some alternative programs and selected the one most favored. We are currently in negotiations with the vendor to have the package in place by the end of June.

5. Expand graduate programs in areas appropriate to Radford University and in need in the Commonwealth.

In progress. Currently, the Graduate College is working on several new programs emanating from program faculty across the campus. Curricular and budget discussions/decisions are being held in the following programs: an EdD in Education and Leadership; a Masters in Athletic Training; a Masters in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; a Masters in Data and Information Management; a Masters in Biomedical Forensic Sciences; and, a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Several other programs are in the discussion stages but those listed above are actual proposals at this point in time.

6. Improve the process for reviewing graduate applications.

Completed. Beginning last year the Graduate College added a product to the on-line application process (Admit) that allows graduate admissions’ committees to review applications on-line and asynchronously. This facilitates the review and decisions of the admissions’ committees.

7. Enhance the number of qualified international students applying for and being admitted into graduate programs.

In progress. After two years of negotiations, Radford University partnered with the VT Language and Culture Institute to open an operation at RU. The Office was launched during the summer and non-English speaking potential graduate students are currently learning English to a level where they can succeed as graduate students.

8. Find a new home for the Graduate College.

Completed. Due to the erection of the new CHBS building, the former Graduate College home, Lucas Hall, was razed. Working with the campus facilities office, we were able to identify the Buchanan House as the appropriate size for the College. After months of renovation, the Graduate College staff moved into the Buchanan House in mid-summer.

9. Rename the formal title of the Graduate College to reflect more accurately what the responsibilities of the College actually are.

Completed. Since 2008, we have operated with the name College of Graduate and Professional Studies while the College actually houses the research office of the University and has nothing to do with Professional Studies if that implies continuing education responsibilities. Last month the Faculty Senate approved the renaming of the College to the College of Graduate Studies and Research. This change should go into effect July 1.