

Florida Gulf Coast University

Graduate Studies Update

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This is my traditional fall newsletter where I inundate you with opportunities and additional responsibilities – the bad seems more readily tolerated when combined with the good. Below are a number of newsworthy items. Please take the time to go through these carefully and, more importantly, pass the relevant items on to your faculty and staff.

(1) Graduate Studies Planning. This is my annual call for graduate studies planning. As in years' past, each College and its associated graduate programs are required to complete their annual Graduate Studies Plan. Typically someone from the Dean's Office completes the college-level plan and program leaders or chairs complete the program-level plans. Templates for the plans are InfoPath documents and can be found at the following share drive address: <\\Fgcu-marlin\share\GradEnrollmentStrategicPlan>. Select your College's folder at the location. After launching the "xml" document, select the button for one of the 2008-2009 Strategic Plan portions (College, Program, etc.).

The program-level plan has a new section this year. I'm asking that program leaders provide me with a progress report on program outcome assessment. I'm not looking for details, but rather a summary of your state of affairs. This is intended to serve as a reminder of the assessment obligations that accompany our SACS visit next March.

In the past we've had some difficulties with programs within a college submitting separate plans. Each college should have one plan; the template is designed to permit multiple users within a college to append the same plan.

If you're having difficulty with InfoPath, please contact Lenore Benefield (590-7048 / lbenefie@fgcu.edu). If you would like advice or helpful hints about your plan's composition, I'm happy to help.

*Strategic plans are to be completed no later than **December 1**.*

(2) Research Assistantship Initiative. ORSP and Graduate Studies are pleased to further our RAship Initiative, whereby ORSP provides 5 - \$10K research assistantships for deserving graduate faculty members and their students. (ORSP and the receiving College provide \$5K matches.) I've attached a few documents describing the initiative. Please, as shepherds of our graduate programs, share this opportunity with your graduate faculty. *Proposals are due to me by **December 1**.* Copies of these documents are also available at our web site; go to URL: <http://www.fgcu.edu/Graduate/graduateresources.html>.

(3) Research-related Graduate Assistantships. In addition to the RAship Initiative, ORSP and Graduate Studies will sponsor a number of research-related graduate assistantships.

These GAships are intended to support your most promising graduate students. To qualify, you must document an explicit plan as to how this award might seed future extramural funding. A short application is required for each GAship (see attached). *These are also due to me by **December 1**.* Please share this with your faculty. I fear this opportunity went mostly unnoticed last year. A copy of the application is available at the Graduate Studies web site (URL: <http://www.fgcu.edu/Graduate/graduateresources.html>).

(4) Graduate Faculty Credentialing. A number of milestones must be met again this year with regard to graduate faculty credentialing. This year, however, compliance is critical because of our pending SACS visit. *By **November 15*** I need updates of the following:

- a. Your most current graduate faculty list, if changed since last spring.
- b. A short summary of your graduate faculty evaluation process, including the criteria your College is applying. (Most of you are using the Faculty Senate Criteria, which have recently been modified with respect to the renewal of graduate faculty status; see attached.)
- c. And finally, each College must have a plan to re-evaluate graduate faculty with some regularity. (Our new Senate-approved criteria document stats this must happen at least one time every 7 years.) Most colleges need to develop this practice.

(5) New Graduate Education Policy. Early this semester, the Faculty Senate approved a new package of graduate education policies that will undoubtedly impact your practices. Please review these carefully (see attached) and share with all your graduate faculty and staff.