GRADUATE ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT (GrEM)
Phase 2: Keep ‘Em In (Retention) 2008-09

Graduate Student Feedback Forum (October 13-15, 2008)
21 graduate students from 10 GrEM departments

Orientation
- Packet of procedures and required forms for degree completion; distribute at orientation
- OU Email account and D2L workshop
- Graduate College- what does this office do and why should I know about them?
- Graduate College Bulletin- what it is and why I should know about it?
- Reminders about deadlines- need ample time to complete the forms and get signatures
- Liaison- who is mine and why should I know this person?
- Dispute/ grievance process- who do I turn to? Publicize these procedures.

Graduate Department Support
- Advising and student initiative
- Pro Seminars are helpful
- Basic research skills reviewed within first 2 years
- Graduate student handbook
- Guidance for completing forms
- Support for professional development and career placement- CVs, annual meetings

Teaching Assistantships
- Tuition waiver limitations: summer courses not covered, may delay progress to degree
- RAs who also serve as graders; pay issue
- Minimum stipend amounts determined by Provost; do graduate students have input?
- Health insurance- want better coverage
- Suggestion: lab rotation with different faculty members before deciding who advisor will be
  - Overworked; advisor’s priorities overshadow student’s degree completion
  - Dispute/ grievance process- what are the options for these students?

ITA/TA Training
- Too general, theoretical, especially for those with no teaching background; needs context specific to discipline
- Accountability/ follow-up: lack of response to TA inquiries re: online modules
- Useful workshops for TAs: D2L support, department-specific issues, time management & grading; introduction and background to courses before actually teaching the class assigned
- Need classroom/ teaching evaluations from faculty or other TAs for improvement; experienced GTAs to mentor new GTAs? Instructional Development evaluate our GTAs? U. Colorado at Boulder program; include this in the annual evaluations completed by departments?
- Match TAs with experience in a class to teach that class
English Assessment Program
- Departments should disclose this requirement and pay scale information in admission letter to international students
- Cost to take the tests is expensive (example, 8 tests = $400)
- Speak test
- Teach test- teaching evaluated not language, but evaluation reveals mispronunciations as reasons for test failure
- Written test- difficult for native speakers; grammatical errors

Job Placement
- Career Services Office- lacks support for international students
- International student concerns
  - place work eligibility questions at the front of applications
  - government capped number of H-1 visas for employment
  - Undergraduate programs open to graduate students?

Parking
- CART/ bus routes- students need to know that you must validate ID with Parking Office
- Need more spaces (small lots for GAs; larger empty lots for faculty/staff)
- Need more bicycle racks and spots for motorcycles/ scooters

Housing
- University Housing policy requires May 15 move-out date; difficult for graduating students who are completing thesis/ dissertation, international students and I-20 concern, looking for job and housing
- Kraettli- poorly designed, no stove vents; quieter, safer than east side Norman apartments

Funding
- Bursar- long lines; less now with online bill pay; would like 24/7 access (currently offline on Sundays)
- Graduate College campaign for increased funding for travel and research
- Travel and research funding is even more difficult for master’s degree students
- Full disclosure of fee description, accurate amount to fees, time expected for degree completion in accordance with tuition waiver limitations and required hours per semester, funding issues for travel and research
  - Frustration that grad students pay for services not used (Huffman, etc.)
  - Process to request waiver of certain fees

Miscellaneous
- Child care service- publicize what is available to both graduate students and faculty
- Immunization records lost
- IT workshops fill too quickly