Graduate Education Strategic Plan

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Co-chairs – Graduate Education Task Force
Graduate Education Task Force

Charged by Provost Haefner in October 2013v

Representatives of all stakeholders in graduate education at RIT: Colleges, program directors, EMCS, OVPR, GSAC

Met weekly November 2012-May 2013

Extensive outreach, information gathering, benchmarking: Graduate student and program director survey, “road show” to College leadership teams, special invitees

Draft delivered to Provost Haefner in late May 2013

Initial vetting at Academic Affairs retreat in July 2013, BOT subcommittee July 2013

Extensive outreach to Colleges and Program Directors

Endorsed by Graduate Council October 2013
Academic Excellence

PhD Responses

- Strongly Agree: 306
- Agree: 157
- Neutral: 95
- Disagree: 28
- Strongly Disagree: 6

Masters Responses

- Strongly Agree: 2231
- Agree: 1293
- Neutral: 810
- Disagree: 247
- Strongly Disagree: 82
Essential Take Homes

Nothing is seriously “broken” with graduate education at RIT: No “fixes” needed, rather strategic visioning as to what should come next

Sustaining and enhancing excellence is critical

Huge opportunities for uniqueness, distinction, visibility: purposeful integration of the various cultures of graduate education at RIT; taking full advantage of RIT’s unique history

Examples:
Imagine and implement novel approaches to professional, creative and scholarly stewardship (Carnegie Initiative for the Doctorate, 2003-2008)
Imagine and implement novel integration/synthesis across fields of inquiry/creative endeavors (from inter- to trans-disciplinarity)
Strategic Plan Principles

1) Graduate education is central to and should be fully integrated with RIT’s mission

2) Pursuit of excellence and outstanding graduate experience are “non-negotiables”

3) We must aim for a deep and respectful understanding of all cultures of graduate education

4) Strategic planning should be data- and assessment driven

5) Recruiting and nurturing exceptional graduate faculty and staff
Strategic Plan Themes

- **Academic Excellence**: Striving to be the best we can be

- **Structure and Administration**: Facilitating a strategic, University-wide evolution of graduate education, while upholding College-based responsibilities

- **Graduate Education Cost and Revenue**: Promoting academic drivers for self-sufficiency

- **Data-Driven Planning and Assessment**: Strengthening partnerships and coordination to provide an ongoing, robust data set

- **Graduate Student Experience**: Creating an inclusive, diverse, and integrative graduate culture
RIT is not alone among aspirational peers regarding challenges and opportunities

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GRADUATE EXPERIENCE

• What should be the hallmarks of a graduate experience that is UNIQUE to RIT, and that should make the RIT graduate experience distinctive, visible, and globally relevant?

• How should we build a rich, diverse graduate culture at RIT?
Timeline:

• Securing faculty, program directors, College feedback; ongoing editing based on feedback

• Engage in vetting process (deans, colleges, faculty, governance)

• Prioritize recommendations for implementation plan (SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM implementable)

• Use Graduate Education strategic plan as the University-wide input for the RIT strategic plan (Jan-Nov 2014)

• Start implementing recommendations