

Graduate Council Report to Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee February 19, 2018

Since the last report to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC), and the Graduate Council have been working on the Strategic Planning process for the College of Graduate Studies (COGS) and graduate programs. The mission of the University of Toledo College of Graduate Studies is to globally improve the human condition through ensuring quality graduate education, while providing and advocating for professional and intellectual development for graduate students in a cross disciplinary, scholarly, ethical and inclusive environment. The College of Graduate Studies in conjunction with Graduate Council has developed a Strategic Plan that aligns with the goals and strategies of the University and is dedicated to the following key areas by: 1) continued graduate student success and academic excellence, 2) excellence in research, scholarship and creative activities, 3) supporting graduate students as faculty, staff and alumni, 4) providing a strong and sustainable fiscal position with enhanced infrastructure and 5) increasing the reputation of UT graduate programs and graduate student engagement. Specific goals within these key areas have been outlined for successful implementation which include:

- Improving graduate and professional student success through timely degree completion while preparing students for advanced academic studies and career success. This includes providing degree formats that fit the needs of incoming students, who no longer fit the “traditional” format with funding packages that are competitive, while providing graduate faculty professional development in the ever changing landscapes of mentoring, diversity and inclusion.
- Achieve national recognition for research excellence by increasing the national prominence of graduate faculty driven research, scholarship and the creative and performing arts activities. Success in these areas will require reinventing and reinvesting in the research processes that help improve productivity in conjunction with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. This includes providing the mechanisms to inform graduate students of grant opportunities, professional outreach activities, organizations and training that propel our students to the forefront of success. Outcomes in this area include successful faculty and student grants, higher impact publications, better post-graduate positions and an alumni base that strengthens our foundation. Our biggest asset to building our reputation - OUR students, who become OUR advocates as the University of Toledo Alumni.
- Support graduate students by fostering a culture of excellence that values retention, career progression and high job satisfaction for faculty and staff by strengthening work-life balance, sense of community and pride in work. This includes increasing diversity as a part of all recruitment and retention initiatives.
- Build a strong financial foundation to ensure adaptability, sustainability and fiscal health for graduate programs. Success is attained by maintaining efficient operations with increased graduate student enrollment through the creation and marketing of in demand programs that cater to “todays” graduate population.

The Graduate Student Association president Mitchell Haines invited the 2017-2018 GSA Research Award Winners to attend a GC Meeting to be recognized. The GSA Award recipients are:

- Vinod Kumar Gattoji, PhD Chemistry advised by Dr. Peter Andreana, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Cory Howard PhD Cancer Biology advised by Dr. Dayanidhi Raman, College of Medicine and Life Sciences
- Yopina Pertiwi, PhD Experimental Psychology advised by Dr. Andrew Geers, College of Arts and Letters

- Kapil Raghuraman, MS Bioengineering advised by Dr. Aisling Coughlan, College of Engineering
- Thomas Valachovics, MS Geology advised by Dr. Timothy Fisher, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Briana Zellner, PhD Microbiology advised by Dr. Jason Huntley, College of Medicine and Life Sciences

Upcoming events in the College of Graduate Studies include the inaugural three minute thesis (3MT®) competition in March 2018. This is a three-minute thesis research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland in Australia. The exercise develops academic presentation and research communication skills, and supports the development of research students' capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes in a language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. The winner of the competition will represent UT and compete in the regional 3MT® competition held on April 4th in Grand Rapids, MI. at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools 74th Annual Meeting. The winner, runner-up, and People's Choice winners will present at the Midwestern Graduate Research Symposium on April 7th by giving their presentations and sharing what they learned through the experience with their peers.

The Graduate Student Association is proud to present the 9th Annual Midwest Graduate Research Symposium on **Saturday, April 7th, 2018** at the University of Toledo. This event has been recognized as a premier event and is a great opportunity to present research, network, and foster intercollegiate friendships and collaborations. Here at the University of Toledo we strive to improve the world around us by advancing research and education to the cutting edge. We look forward to hosting individuals from around the nation in what promises to be an outstanding day for all involved. For more information on registration <https://graduatestudentassociationblog.wordpress.com/midwest-graduate-research-symposium/>

The Graduate Council looks forward to continuing partnership with COGS, the Provost's office, the Graduate Student Association, and UT faculty, staff and students in supporting our graduate and professional programs.

Respectfully,

Andrea L. Kalinoski, Ph.D.
University of Toledo Graduate Council Chair