Mission Statement for the Graduate School

The purposes of the graduate program are to provide well-qualified students with the opportunity to obtain a graduate degree, to provide members of the teaching profession with the opportunity to obtain a graduate degree, to provide members of the teaching profession with the opportunity to enhance their competencies and knowledge in areas associated with the profession, to equip superior graduate students for research and study at the doctoral level, and to provide college graduates who do not desire an advanced degree the opportunity to enhance knowledge and skills. Inherent in the guiding philosophy is the assumption that graduate study includes more than the passing of prescribed courses and the meeting of minimum requirements. Any student who receives a graduate degree must possess a broad knowledge of the literature of his field of study, be capable of sustained study, exhibit the power of independent thinking, and possess a reasonable ability in research.

All graduate work is administered by the Graduate School and the Committee on Graduate Studies.

Accomplishments of Graduate Education at the State University of West Georgia

While individual unit reports document accomplishments of individual academic units, the graduate education at the University remains strong. This is based on the following:

- High quality graduate programs are offered. Almost all graduate programs capable of outside accreditation have obtained such accreditation.
- The scholarly productivity of the faculty as documented in unit annual reports.
- Overall strength of technological resources.
- Increases in graduate enrollment during spring and summer semester and advance registration for fall 2002 suggest a halt to declining enrollments.
- The approval of a system for the regular evaluation of graduate faculty.
Students began taking courses in new graduate programs in Computer Science and Nursing and in certificate programs in Public History and Museum Studies.

Graduate faculty and student research awards were instituted.

The Ed.D. program admitted its third cohort of students and will soon produce its first graduates.

A survey of graduate students conducted during spring semester 2002 suggest overall satisfaction with the quality of their graduate education.

Specific Accomplishments of the Graduate School Office

During FY 2002 the Dean of the Graduate School and the Graduate School Office had the following accomplishments:

- Fostering approval of a strategy for the regular evaluation of graduate faculty.
- Fostering approval of research awards for graduate faculty and students.
- Distribution and analysis of a survey of UWG graduate students enrolled during spring semester 2002 (see Appendix E).
- Continuation of the Graduate Education Forum. Several excellent programs were held this year.
- Graduate student recruitment activities continued and were expanded. (Please see Appendix A).
- The Graduate Dean once again served as chair of the Leadership Development Seminar program for the University System’s Administrative Committee on Graduate Work. He received a plaque at this year’s seminar for his work over the years.
- An article on graduate student recruitment practices, coauthored with Ms. Cheryl Thomas (first author), was submitted to the Journal of Education Marketing Research.
- Distribution of souvenir cups and t-shirts to former Leadership Development Seminar participants.
- Graduate Office staff attended various staff development activities. Patricia Wells attended conferences on Banner and international student admissions including a workshop on SEVIS. Dianne Smith continued in her role as co-
chair of the alternative dispute resolution committee and attended meetings related to this role. Alice Wesley and Elaine Heath-Ward attended a conference on dealing with difficult people. Cheryl Thomas submitted an article for publication along with the Dean of the Graduate School. Ms. Thomas was nominated for exempt employee of the year and Ms. Elaine Heath-Ward for nonexempt employee of the year. Ms. Myakesha Bethune, a student worker, was nominated for student employee of the year.

- The Graduate Dean remained active on campus and off, engaging in the following activities:

  A. He served as advisor for four campus groups. He also attended various programs on campus including an undergraduate research seminar and a program associated with the Honors program.

  B. The Dean also served as program chair for the fourth year for ACOGW’s Leadership Development Seminar which was held at Jekyll Island.

  D. The Dean remained active off campus by engaging in the following activities:

     1. He served as a member of Black Men Encouraging Success Today. He was chair of the B.E.S.T. Awards program.

     2. The Dean served as secretary for the Carroll County Development Authority (DACC). This important body was involved in helping to bring Walmart.com and the JANUS Corporation to Carroll County and fostering the development of an industrial park near Temple, GA. The JANUS corporation will be the first business that will locate in Carroll County because of the industrial park. The DACC was also involved in the purchase of the land by Walmart.com.


     4. Taught a gerontology class during fall semester 2001.

     5. Along with Graduate Office staff, hosted a student appreciation reception this year for students working in the Graduate School Office.

     6. Served as a member of the FASP Faculty Senate subcommittee.
8. Attended meetings of the President’s Advisory Committee.

9. Met with Dr. Dianne Plummer of Clark Atlanta University during summer 2001 to review sections of a research grant proposal.

10. Continued to run the Graduate School Office as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Goals and Their Measurement

Goals for 2001-02 may be found in Appendix B. A report on the attainment of these goals is found in Appendix C. Some of the goals for next year may be found below. Goals for 2002 - 2003 may be found in Appendix D.

Graduate School Office Goals for 2002 - 2003

- Work the areas of the “Bread and Butter” goals that apply to the Graduate School.

- Work to increase the visibility of the Graduate School on and off campus.

- Continue to recruit in as energetic and effective fashion as possible.

- Initiate a graduate student orientation program.

- Obtain funding for an Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

- Obtain funding for graduate research assistantships under the control of the Graduate School Office.

- Continue efforts to communicate with graduate faculty about issues pertinent to graduate education.

- Teach a course for the gerontology program during spring 2003.

- Distribute results from the spring 2002 survey of UWG graduate students.
Utilization of Assessment Results

Assessment results continue to be utilized to improve the operation and effectiveness of the Graduate School Office. Examples are:

1. Inviting more students to the Graduate School’s recruitment luncheon in October 2001 than in prior years to ensure a larger turnout to the luncheon.

2. Utilizing applications and submission of essays to determine which should students be invited to the Leadership Development Seminar in Jekyll Island.

3. Observing that the number of catalog requests was down and the number of online applications submitted was up. The number of catalogs ordered has been reduced from 9000 three years ago to 5500 for 2002-03. It is apparent that more and more students are looking at our Graduate School catalog on the web. It has not been possible to obtain the number of hits to the online catalog for several months, but other information strongly suggest that students are going online to view the catalog.

4. Assessing the effects of post-baccalaureate programs such as Georgia Responds on graduate enrollment.

5. The Graduate Office number of applications resulting from poster promotions. We have quit sending posters for the time being.

6. The Graduate Office uses a designated line to assess the effectiveness of radio ads.

7. The Graduate Office over the years has greatly decreased the “I did not know that” comment from graduate students by working hard to inform them of frequently violated policies.