2013-2014 Strategic Plan Highlights

This is only a brief snapshot of our bigger strategic plan. There are many more action items associated with each of our major goals.

**Big Goal 1: Increase the size and range of the graduate student body.**
- A new recruiting and marketing strategy
- Target new applied and professional masters degrees to support Arizona workforce
- Invest in international and local partnerships

**Big Goal 2: Build a more diverse graduate student body**
- Tie growth in fellowship funding to growth in diversity.
- Provide an annual report on diversity to programs
- Develop a tool kit of best practices
- Develop a year-round version of the UROC program to support undergraduate preparation for graduate studies.

**Big Goal 3: Promote a more engaged and effective graduate education (increase retention and completion and decrease time to degree)**
- Develop a set of best practices in curricular design and distribute to departments
- Provide a student reporting system for annual reports from students
- Require mentoring plans for students who are at risk.
- Cyclical programmatic Handbook review.

**Big Goal 4: Advance interdisciplinary research and study**
- Strategic hires to support GIDP curricular needs
- Integrate GIDP reporting more closely into the P&T + annual reporting structures
- Stabilize financial support for GIDPs under RCM2
- Develop new fund-raising for interdisciplinary education.
- Form a Graduate Center, which will serve as a venue for professional development, and a home for a University Fellows program, which will address grand challenges.

**Big Goal 5. Improve the lives of our graduate students**
- Develop personal budgeting tools for students to decrease the reliance on debt.
- Provide greater assistance in applying for grant and fellowship funding.
- Develop a plan to improve access to low cost housing and child care.
- Address issues of compensation and GA workload.
Big Goal 6. Improve the efficiency of administrative functions in the Grad College.

- Move all remaining forms into GradPath
- Continue improvements on the new Online Application System
- Eliminate all hard copy processes in Admissions.
- Provide a one-stop shop for information about policies, procedures and how-tos. (Online tool kits and quick vids).
- Develop proactive control processes (warning emails if a student appears to be falling behind or performing below standards)
- Continue to work with HR, Systems control and Financial Aid to improve the hiring of graduate students and the disbursement of funding.
- Develop better TA training services to be deployed at the college level rather than the centralized GATO.

***Three new IT innovations coming within this year (or maybe next):

- A new and improved program description guide.
- A new Graduate College Website
- A student reporting system to help departments better monitor satisfactory academic progress.