

Graduate School and Research Unit Plan 1990 - 1993

VISION STATEMENT

The Graduate School has a dual responsibility for graduate programs and research. At the graduate level, the Graduate School supports a broad scope of master's programs in nine professional schools and sixteen departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, six doctoral programs in the School of Medicine, and the EdD in the School of Education. The Office of Sponsored Programs is the administrative unit responsible for all pre-award activity involving external sponsorship of programs via grants and contracts. With the participation of the graduate faculty, the Graduate School articulates values and establishes standards leading to excellence in graduate programs. It supports faculty and student research and scholarship, and it acts as an advocate and agent for the enhancement of these endeavors in order to foster an institutional environment which is attractive to academically talented students and faculty with a strong commitment to research and scholarship.

In addition to the University-wide responsibilities, described above, the Office also provides academic oversight for several programs which are primarily research or with a substantial cross-disciplinary research component including the Institute for Coastal and Marine Resources, the Gerontology Program and the ECU/Caswell Developmental Disabilities Intervention and Research Program.

During the planning period, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies will work to fully establish its newly defined role with particular focus on graduate student recruitment, increased research and scholarly activity, and new doctoral programs.

ELEMENTS OF DISTINCTION

- ◆ An Office of Sponsored Programs which supports the third largest volume of sponsored program activity in the University of North Carolina
- ◆ National and international recognition for the Institute for Coastal and Marine Resources which supports strong basic and applied research programs in estuarine and coastal ecology, coastal plain and continental shelf geology, and maritime sociology and anthropology
- ◆ A Gerontology Program which coordinates educational programs at the undergraduate and graduate level and carries out applied research focusing on problems of rural aging and health, a combination of research and instruction unmatched elsewhere in The University of North Carolina
- ◆ An Intervention and Research Program on Developmental Disabilities which is a collaboration between ECU and Caswell Center, the only program in the state which focuses on the community in its research and development of service training models and the only University Affiliated Program in North Carolina other than UNC-Chapel Hill

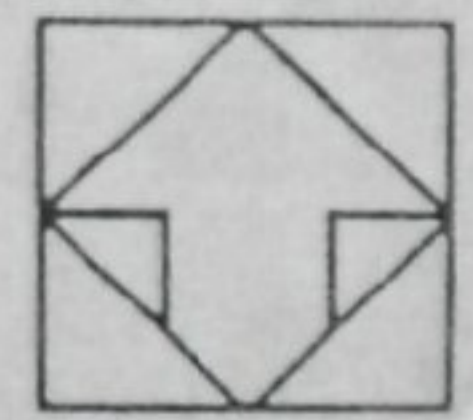
PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

1. *Achieve distinction in undergraduate education*

- a. Develop programs for outside funding which would provide research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students including those who are academically disadvantaged and those who need stimulation and motivation
- b. Coordinate campus-wide initiatives to secure outside funding for programs to promote interest in math and science for undergraduates which builds on current programs in math and science education and provide a graduate recruitment opportunity

2. *Strengthen the commitment to excellence in teaching*

- a. Assist in identifying external funding sources to support innovative teaching programs



b. Reevaluate and revise criteria for continued appointment of graduate faculty

3. *Develop a university culture based on respect for individual rights and human diversity*

- a. Establish program to enhance recruitment of minority graduate students
- b. Identify practices which act as barriers to application and admission of nontraditional students to graduate programs and develop strategies to remove these barriers
- c. Increase recruitment of academically talented international students to graduate school
- d. Develop programs to recruit academically talented students to graduate school from a broader geographical area

4. *Expand doctoral programs*

- a. Work with the School of Education to complete details of the new EdD program and implement via recruitment of highly qualified students
- b. Work with the School of Medicine to recruit more qualified students to current PhD programs
- c. Work with academic units to develop plans for implementation of new doctoral programs consistent with the strategic plan
- d. Identify external funds to support students in new doctoral programs
- e. Establish institutional procedures for periodic evaluation of established doctoral programs

5. *Strengthen the commitment to research, scholarship, and creative activity*

- a. Place priority on the needs of minority populations and rural, health, coastal, and environmental issues in the distribution of resources and publication of programs
- b. Increase extramural support by increasing faculty submission of applications and increasing the success of applications

c. Establish a Research Advisory Council to provide advice and consultation on research issues

d. Establish institutional policy for distribution of indirect cost funds in support of research and creative activity to provide an incentive to faculty efforts

e. Initiate a faculty research awards program similar to the faculty teaching awards program

f. Coordinate process for awarding funds to faculty in support of research and creative activity

g. Promote technology transfer and other faculty entrepreneurial activity which can directly benefit the University

h. Foster collaborative research on campus and across campuses, both within disciplines and across the disciplines

i. Increase assistantship support for students who are carrying out research

j. Increase externally funded undergraduate and graduate student research

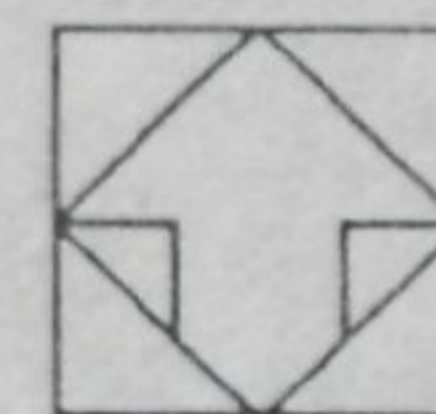
k. Apply high standards of scholarship and creative activity to all graduate and associate graduate faculty members

l. Develop and implement a strategy to strengthen biotechnology research and teaching efforts

m. Develop new research programs in coastal and marine resources and marine biotechnology to complement existing programs

n. Formalize organizational structure of ECU/Caswell Center Developmental Disabilities Research and Intervention Program in order to seek approval from UNC General Administration to establish a Developmental Disabilities Institute for Research and Intervention

o. Establish a Center on Aging with the approval of the UNC General Administration and Board of Governors



6. Improve teacher education and stimulate improvement in public schooling

- a. Work with School of Education to complete details of new EdD program and implement via recruitment of highly qualified students
- b. Work with School of Education and College of Arts and Sciences to strengthen admission standards for all graduate programs

7. Recruit and support academically proficient and talented students

- a. Expand recruitment programs to a larger audience so as to increase applications of academically proficient graduate students by at least 4 percent per year
- b. Work toward consistency in high standards for admission to all graduate programs
- c. Identify and remove barriers to graduate learning for the nontraditional graduate student
- d. Secure more fellowships for talented graduate students to decrease financial need as a barrier to timely completion of degree
- e. Increase information about graduate policies and programs, financial aid, and University services to enrolled and prospective graduate students
- f. Develop graduate recruitment publications and monitor effectiveness

8. Advance the University effectively to external publics

- a. Establish and maintain an inventory of accomplishments of faculty research and scholarship especially as they relate to state economic development
- b. Work with the Office of Institutional Advancement to focus information on graduate programs and accomplishments of faculty in research, scholarship, and creative activity to selected external audiences

Support the goals in Pitt County's Focus 2007 strategic plan, particularly those relating to the development of a research and development park dedicated to applied research and technology transfer

9. Develop and use expanded information resources

- a. Convert record system of grants and contracts to data management system in order to meet unit requests for activity reports
- b. Extend use of student data base to include admissions system for graduate school
- c. Extract useful management information from the student data base to inform recruitment efforts and supplement analysis of graduate programs
- d. Develop reports from student payroll system to inform financial management of resources in concert with University mission and strategic plan

10. Provide effective stewardship of the University

- a. Transfer graduate admissions to computerized system to free staff time to provide more personal service to applicants
- b. Improve graduate assistantship payroll system and transfer data entry to more appropriate office
- c. Initiate periodic meetings of unit directors
- d. Institute financial management system in the Graduate School to facilitate more informed use of resources in support of strong academic programs and research
- e. Develop a process for monitoring progress through degree of graduate students including an agreed program of study