



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Members of the University Community
FROM: Barbara R. Snyder *Barbara*
Executive Vice President and Provost
RE: Freeman Committee Report on Graduate Education (part 1)
DATE: September 13, 2005

It is clear that for Ohio State to become the premier public land-grant research university that the quality of doctoral education must be outstanding.

With this objective in mind, in June 2004, I convened the Committee on Graduate Education, chaired by Dr. Richard Freeman, Dean of the College of Math & Physical Sciences, to:

- assess the alignment of doctoral education with the academic plan;
- recommend an appropriate funding model to support outstanding doctoral programs;
- suggest how resources might be redistributed or reinvested to support outstanding doctoral programs; and
- devise metrics that might be used for a cyclical review of the quality of doctoral programs.

In late May 2005, at my request, Dean Freeman shared a draft report with the University Senate's Fiscal Committee for feedback and suggestions. The Fiscal Committee then formed a subcommittee, chaired by Dean Joseph Alutto, whose assessment of the draft report was reviewed and endorsed by the Fiscal Committee on August 25, 2005.

These two committees resoundingly supported the principle that we must have outstanding doctoral programs and articulated many similar perspectives about improving the quality of doctoral education at Ohio State. Importantly, both committees noted that:

- doctoral program quality varies considerably;
- doctoral programs must be assessed on a regular cycle;
- our productivity in terms of doctoral and masters degrees is low compared to peers;
- current fiscal principles are not aligned with supporting doctoral program quality;
- the current budget model processes and review can produce adjustments that align resources with doctoral program quality; and,
- there may be funds within the Graduate School and from the Board of Regents that might be used to begin aligning quality with funding.

As the Graduate School Review Committee, chaired by Dean Paul Beck, completes its task of reviewing the current structure and functions of the Graduate School and considers recommendations for changes that support the best possible graduate education, it will consider the perspectives supported by both the Freeman Committee and by the University Senate Fiscal Committee. Those reports are attached.

With this memorandum, we will begin the process of conducting a campus-wide discussion of these recommendations. Dean Freeman and I will meet with interested groups, including but not limited to the Council of Deans, the Council on Research and Graduate Studies, University Research Committee, the Council on Academic Affairs, the Faculty Council, and the Council of Graduate Students, to discuss the reports and the recommendations. After we have received input from the campus community, I will work with the University Senate Fiscal Committee and the Graduate School to develop an implementation plan that will help us achieve our goal to produce doctoral and master's graduates that are among the best in the nation.

Enclosure: Freeman Committee, *Report of Committee on Graduate Education-Part I: Financial and Internal Process Considerations (September 2, 2005)*
Senate Fiscal Committee, *Report on Proposals Affecting Doctoral and Master's Education – Fiscal Implications (August 25, 2005)*