

Graduate Council Report

March 23, 2022

Faculty Senate meeting: April 27, 2022

- Two GMU graduate programs have been approved by SCHEV. The programs are:
 1. Master of Computing in Computing
 2. Doctor of Philosophy in Mechatronics, Robotics and Automation Engineering
- Revisions to AP.6.6.1 and AP3.7 have been approved
- Fifty-eight students were awarded a Summer Research Fellowship.
- The website for the [Graduate Reimagining Initiative](#) has been updated to include the second phase of the process.

Another activity I was involved in as the Faculty Senate representative to the Graduate Council during AY 2021-2022 was the Task Force (TF) for the Graduate Reimagining Initiative. The TF was established in April 2021 and met bi-weekly until September 2021.

Task Force charge

The charge for this group is to consider the current context for and state of graduate education at Mason. The group also is asked, among other critical issues, to consider the benefits and challenges of the prospective creation of a Graduate School at our university that could facilitate consistent and equitable expectations, opportunities both within and across academic units and enhance structures that support graduate students.

Specifically, the following areas are to be considered:

- Identify and review Mason's current graduate education opportunities and associated challenges;
- Utilizing R1 institutions' models and best practices, review and consider strategic solutions to could help to overcome these challenges;
- Suggest operational and structural enhancements that could facilitate the implementation of the proposed solutions;
- Provide recommendations on what graduate education structure would best align with the University's mission, vision, overall structure, strategic objectives, and funding allocations, including the prospective forming of a Graduate School at Mason.

The primary goal of the group to create a White Paper that can be presented to the Provost and the President by early fall 2021 that addresses the issues raised, and other associated issues that may be identified.

I presented a summary of the recommendations on behalf of the TF at the FS meeting on October 20, 2021. The main recommendation of the TF was that a "Graduate Division will elevate Mason graduate education by increasing the impact of graduate students and

programs, by fostering a collaborative culture of academic excellence, and by contributing to the research productivity and the workforce development appropriate to an R1 institution.”

The TF ceased their activity in November 2021. The second phase of the Graduate Reimagining Initiative, is the implementation planning phase. The second phase is led by Dr. Laurence Bray, Associate Provost for Graduate Education who will work with four advisory teams to formulate the most effective implementation strategy. The TF will be consulted for feedback on the preliminary implementation plan. The FS is not represented in the second phase of the Initiative.

Respectfully submitted by Cristiana Stan, Faculty Senate Representative to the Graduate Council 2021-2022