Update on Funding Doctoral Education Based Upon Quality

The Graduate School, September, 2007

Goals:

- “Identify high-quality doctoral programs that will enhance the reputation of the university and provide them with increased support”

- “Identify weak, non-core graduate programs that do not enhance the reputation of the university and develop a mechanism for disinvesting in them”

The Srinivasan committee report and Osmer implementation plan (both posted on Graduate School web page, gradsch.osu.edu) are the main reference documents for the effort.

The Graduate School has distributed to the Deans the available data on graduate programs provided by Institutional Research and Planning, Graduate Admissions, and the Graduate School itself.

The data provide important information on the quality of the graduate programs, but they are only one of several factors to be considered in the assessment process. A considerable amount of information was distributed, and colleges might begin their analysis by considering, for example, GRE scores, placement of doctoral graduates, time to candidacy and time to completion of degree, ratio of students enrolled to those completing the Ph.D., and student diversity. The other parameters also aid in the assessment.

Other factors that are important for the assessment of programs and selection of candidates for enhanced support include: a) overall program quality and centrality to Ohio State’s mission, b) new or emerging opportunities in a field where Ohio State can excel, c) ways that a program can gain a competitive edge over other institutions, d) plans to improve diversity, e) new and focused approaches to recruiting high-quality graduate students, and f) the commitment of the programs and college to strengthening the doctoral program.

The Dean of the Graduate School will now schedule meetings with each College Dean, along with department and graduate studies chairs as the Dean chooses, to give the Graduate School’s assessment of the data and engage in dialogue about the process and next steps.

Each College Dean will carry out an internal process during Autumn Quarter to select candidate programs for increased support as well as any candidates for disinvestment.