**Report of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee**

**May 2013**

The committee met on April 24, 2013, and discussed the following issues:

1. The two sub-committees (on potential grad-specific considerations for APC and on school-level standards for theses and dissertations) had no new information to report.
2. The committee discussed the summary of the Faculty Graduate Workload survey. The committee decided to remove specific interpretation of the tables, but to provide an Executive Summary at the beginning of the document, highlighting overall trends in the data. Committee members reviewed the Executive Summary via email and provided feedback. The final summary is forwarded to the Senate with this report.
3. The committee discussed the following motion on creating a task force to aggressively investigate the issue of discounting graduate tuition. The committee worked to craft a motion that would not jeopardize current competitive tuition pricing and that would encourage and provide a process for autonomy for programs to provide competitive packages for incoming graduate students. The committee unanimously approved the following motion:

Whereas graduate education has an important role in this institution;

Whereas the high cost of graduate tuition and lack of sufficient financial aid in the form of graduate and teaching assistantships limit the ability of graduate programs on campus to recruit the top students and therefore their academic profiles;

Whereas tuition discounting has been effective at improving the quantity and academic profile of the recent undergraduate student body;

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate requests the formation of a Graduate Tuition and Financial Aid Taskforce to: 1. examine the benefits and challenges of offering tuition discounts and other forms of aid at the graduate level, particularly among programs not currently benefiting from competitive tuition pricing; 2. make recommendations about program-specific tuition and financial aid policy at the graduate level; 3. articulate a policy through which programs can propose financial packages for their graduate students.  The Senate supports a membership consisting of a designated senate representative, two (2) representatives from each college offering graduate programs and determined by the faculty of the respective colleges, the Dean of Research and Graduate Services, and representatives from the offices of the Provost, Financial Aid, Admissions, and Enrollment Services.