PhD Excellence Curriculum and Teaching Committee

Student training

- What do you consider student success at the PhD level? Are specific job outcomes currently part of this consideration of student success?

- What steps do you now take to mentor your students in teaching and in other aspects of professionalization?

- What additional steps could the department take to improve student development such as career diversity awareness, adaptability, communication, leadership skills, diversity training?

- Even if you already offer diversified professional development training or information about diverse opportunities to your students, are you exploring or would like to explore collaborations with the office of Career Services in these areas and possibly with other departments?

Student teaching

- How much teaching is ideal for graduate students in your program, and of what kind? When would this teaching ideally occur (assuming years 1 through 5)? How would such teaching balance with students' research tasks and other responsibilities?

- How are teaching assignments, lab responsibilities, and other professional tasks distributed between Graduate Assistants and clinical faculty in your department? What kinds of changes would you consider making in clinical faculty assignments in order to structure a stronger PhD program?

- In light of the previous two questions, and considering that strong undergraduate programs can help support and sustain strong PhD programs, are there certain courses that undergraduates would benefit from having faculty (clinical or ladder) versus Graduate Assistants teach? Could retention and success of both graduate students and undergraduates in your department be improved by reconsidering which courses graduate students deliver?

Student Recruitment

- What is working in the area of recruitment of PhD students? What else might your department do, or might the College or University do, to attract stronger local, national and international applicants?

- The PhD Excellence Initiative underscores diversity and inclusion as key areas of potential improvement across the university. Are their specific initiatives your department is pursuing or would like to pursue in these areas?

Retention rates and time to degree

- The PhD Excellence Initiative places a great deal of emphasis on retention rates and time to degree. What do you regard as the ideal time-to-degree for your students?

- What are some steps the department could take to improve time to degree and reduce attrition?

Additional initiatives and impediments

- What other initiatives would your department like to implement in the short to medium term to improve student success at the PhD level?

- What impediments are there to your doing so?