



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

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April 18, 2017

John C. Keller  
Associate Provost for Graduate & Professional Education  
Dean, the Graduate College  
205 Gilmore Hall

Dear Dean Keller:

I am pleased to provide this letter as a final statement from the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (EVPP) on the Graduate College (GC) collegiate review. A five-person GC review committee submitted a report based on a review of written materials, including a GC self study, in-person meetings and written comments. In addition, the GC submitted an action plan as part of a response to review.

The review observed widespread support for the GC across the university as well as high regard nationally. The focus on and commitment to excellence in graduate education is evident in the self study. The review praised the GC for identifying creative solutions in response to diminishing financial resources both with regard to administrative reorganization and to distribution of graduate student support.

As noted in the review and in the GC response, allocation of additional resources to the GC could enhance both its administrative and programmatic functions. Given the current fiscal climate and ongoing work at UI on academic reorganization, the following is recommended:

1. Integrate strategic planning and actions for academic homes for the departments and units currently within the GC with the ongoing academic restructuring initiative.
2. Initiate a process for collaboration among individual colleges and the GC to strengthen and clarify:
  - Graduate student recruitment and completion, including pooling of resources to optimize student support and enhancing opportunities for targeted philanthropy
  - Processes and metrics for graduate program reviews
  - Post-graduate support (e.g., career services)
  - Diversity initiatives

This concludes the Office of the Provost's review of the Graduate College.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Curry, Ph.D.  
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost