Graduate School Student Diversity Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – September 16, 2011

Brief introductions were followed by a discussion of an Orientation for New Graduate Students:

- How can we make K week welcoming for graduate students?
  - Host an event for grad students and families before K Week
  - Grad student Facebook to connect students before they arrive
  - Review K Week Schedule for most appeal grad student events - Communicate with students about meet up locations at K Week events
- If a separate grad student orientation is created, take care not to duplicate info provided to int’l students at their orientation, but could include
  - Public transportation info, including car sharing program
  - Tour of Lexington, grocery stores, historic sites, etc.
  - Campus tour
- Another possibility would be to have a daily question with answer on the grad school website
- FOLLOW-UP: Need to notify students of temperature fluctuations within buildings on campus
- Create a service-based orientation to build community and learn from other graduate students
- Create survival guide for new graduate students – make available on grad school home page early in semester – email/list-serv
  - Printable with a “To Do” list
  - How to apply for a social security number
  - Department contacts
  - How to get a driver’s license
  - Housing (off campus student services has a list/site)
  - Info about climate in Lex
  - City services
- Information about Lexington/City Services available on GS website with additional resources link
- Could an official “graduate student expert” be appointed as a contact for all graduate student questions – maybe put a photo on the main page
  - FOLLOW-UP: Dean Bond and Anna Allen-Edwards will consider and may suggest to the Dean

The committee considered the formation of a subcommittee dedicated to graduate student Field Trips:

- Note: spouses and families cannot ride UK vans, but UK vans could be rented at a much lower rate than a bus
- A subcommittee would research area destinations and consider dates for trips
- They would possibly research how the Johnson Center plans their trips; try to negotiate group rates
- FOLLOW-UP: If members are interested in promoting these events, email Heather Davis (heda222@uky.edu) to join the subcommittee
Other discussion followed:

- A lengthy discussion of graduate student leadership introduced the committee to the now defunct Graduate Student Congress
  - This group put on a conference each spring at which UK grad students could present their research in a less stressful setting
  - If reinstated, the group could work with the GSSDAC to promote an enriched experience for all graduate students at UK
  - **FOLLOW-UP**: Interested members should email Morris Grubbs (Morris.Grubbs@uky.edu)

- In response to concerns about limited diversity in UK programs, in comparison with Lexington population, GS staff explained that the GS is charged with increasing diversity in graduate programs – one of their challenges is to introduce undergraduates to people of diversity in graduate programs
  - **FOLLOW-UP**: The staff asked for grad student volunteers to help with recruiting; if interested, please email Anna Allen-Edwards (aallen1@email.uky.edu)

- This committee could give consideration to the barriers to diversity in UK programs
  - **FOLLOW-UP**: Pat and Anna will meet with the Forestry Chair

- Members agreed to keep meetings on Fridays at noon and for now to meet once a month
  - **FOLLOW-UP**: Heather will share meeting summary and next meeting date with committee soon