One of the key goals of our new strategic plan is to achieve Carnegie Very High Research ranking. Increasing graduate student productivity is essential to meeting this goal. As a part of our strategic efforts towards increased productivity, UGS has established a Taskforce on Policies, Procedures, Practices, and Forms (P3F) charged with three specific objectives: i) survey FIU graduate community on the effectiveness of our P3F and improvements needed; ii) identify impediments to student progress and/or unintended consequences in our P3F; and iii) summarize conclusions and recommendations in a brief report. The Taskforce is expected to meet these objectives within six months. The Taskforce is comprised of the following members:

- Leslie Frazier, Chair, College of Arts & Sciences
- Maureen Donnelly, College of Arts & Sciences
- Harry Gould, College of Arts & Sciences
- Wei-Chiang Lin, College of Engineering & Computing
- Jainendra Navlakha, College of Engineering & Computing
- Thomas G. Reio, College of Education
- Adam Drisin, College of Architecture & The Arts
- Benjamin Amick III, Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work
- Stephen Barnett, Chapman Graduate School of Business
- Amy Paul-Ward, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences
- Kathy Fitzpatrick, School of Journalism & Mass Communication
- Terry Lease, Chaplin School Hospitality & Tourism Management

As it moves forward, the Taskforce is surveying graduate faculty and students to solicit their feedback. Please participate in their survey and feel free to approach any of the members to have a detailed conversation.

Thank you,
### Change in Submission Deadline for Doctoral Student Recruitment and Colloquium Enhancement Proposals

In response to departmental concerns regarding the late submission dates for recruitment and colloquium enhancement funding initiatives, the UGS has decided to move up the proposal submission deadline for both initiatives to **June 1st**. With the new deadline, awardees will be receiving notifications by the end of June instead of late October, thus giving programs a better picture of their recruitment and colloquium budgets before the new fiscal year begins. Proposal forms and guidelines can be found at [http://gradschool.fiu.edu/recruitment-and-colloquium-enhancement-initiative.shtml](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/recruitment-and-colloquium-enhancement-initiative.shtml).

### Deadline Approaching for Annual Student Evaluation and Mentoring Plan

The Annual Student Evaluation and Mentoring Plan is due on **May 30th, 2015**. Please note that the form is due to your college one or two weeks before our deadline. Go to [http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/Annual-Doctoral-Student-Evaluation-Form.pdf](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/Annual-Doctoral-Student-Evaluation-Form.pdf) in order to access the form. Should you have any questions regarding the successful completion of your student’s Annual Evaluation and Mentoring Plan, please contact the University Graduate School at ugs@fiu.edu or (305) 348-2455.

### Open House for Fall 2015 New Admitted Students

On **Tuesday, May 5th, 2015** the UGS will be holding its Open House for Fall 2015 new admitted students. The purpose of the fall admit open house is to build early connections between students admitted to your program and your current students and faculty. It is a perfect opportunity for admitted students to learn more about your program and ideally firm up their decision about enrolling at FIU. This is not meant to be an advising session. Invitations have been sent out to Fall 2015 new admitted students. For those departments that will be participating, we would appreciate your assistance in reaching out and inviting your Fall 2015 admitted students to this event, as well as arranging for faculty and current students to participate in the event. The event will take place from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the GC Ballrooms on Tuesday, May 5th. For more information, please contact Ana Moreyra Rosado at arosado@fiu.edu or Magnolia Hernandez at mehernan@fiu.edu.

### Graduate Orientation

The UGS will hold its Graduate Orientation for new Summer students on **Friday, May 8th at 2:00 pm in GL 100**. This is not a mandatory orientation, although new summer students are strongly encouraged to attend. All new summer graduate students have been invited to attend. The orientation is also available online; information about the online orientation will be sent to students by April 24, 2015. To RSVP for the in-person orientation, students can go to [http://gradschool.fiu.edu/orientation-summer2015.shtml](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/orientation-summer2015.shtml).