

Franke, Gabriel

From: Dodge, Gail
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 8:39 PM
To: Dodge, Gail
Cc: Bayse, Craig A.; Whitfield, Tiffany L.
Subject: College of Sciences Monday Matters: Graduate Student Success

Dear Colleagues:

From a rapid switch to virtual learning in March to seeing their research projects shelved due to the pandemic, these last 8 months have been challenging for our graduate students. Continuing into the fall, our graduate students have been doing a phenomenal job supporting the College's teaching mission through these unusual times. Students are leading recitations and teaching labs both virtually and in-person. As the restrictions lift, more students are getting back into their labs to work toward their degrees.

Our Graduate Student Advisory Board, with representatives from each program, has met several times with Associate Dean Craig Bayse to discuss issues of importance to graduate students. Communication has been a key concern and the College has worked with the departments to make sure that information flows to students. Parking is another issue that is commonly discussed, but one that the College has little influence over. We have been working with the Graduate School to make adjustments when we are able.

Last year Craig held graduate student town halls to discuss issues department by department. These meetings were put on hold by the pandemic, but will restart next month. Students will be notified through their GPD and Graduate Student Advisory Board representative.

Resources for graduate student concerns are available through the Graduate School (<https://odu.edu/graduateschool>) and the College's Student Success websites (<https://odu.edu/sci/student-success>). The Graduate School hosts a Let's Talk Grad Life series with topics of interest to graduate students. The upcoming online session is 'Living your Best Life on a Budget' on Nov 16 and Nov 17 from 4 – 5:30 pm. See the Grad School website for more information.

The College would like to offer more professional development opportunities for graduate students. There will be a workshop on mentoring offered in the Spring. Suggestions for additional workshops can be made through your program's Graduate Student Advisory Board representative.

ODU graduate students are eligible to apply for a Graduate Fellowship from the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (<https://vsgc.odu.edu/graduatefellowships/>). Only five institutions in the state are eligible for this competitive funding. Students interested should consult the four NASA Mission Directorates (<https://www.nasa.gov/stem/about.html>) to see if their projects could be pitched as related to these mission statements.

We are very grateful to our graduate students for their dedication to teaching and their patience with restrictions on research. If you have any suggestions for ways that we can enhance their ODU experience, please contact Craig.

Best Regards,
Gail

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