

Student Concerns Committee Final Report (2005-2006)

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Activities & Accomplishments:

I

After discussions with the committee's student representatives at the beginning of the academic year, one of the primary goals of the committee was to assist in the establishment of a centralized office and Web site that would provide information regarding external and internal scholarships, fellowships, and employment opportunities to graduate students. In order to carry out the goal, the following steps were taken:

- 1) Committee members researched the type of assistance now being provided to graduate students by the University of Tennessee in terms of external/internal funding.
- 2) The committee examined the type of grant/fellowship support systems that exist at other academic institutions in the United States.
- 3) Based on the above activities, a need for a centralized office and Web site providing funding-related support to graduate students was confirmed. A formal proposal for the creation of a Graduate Student Resource Center was drafted and presented to Vice-Chancellor and Dean Anne Mayhew, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and the Faculty Senate. The proposal met with favorable responses.
- 4) The Office of Graduate Student Services and Dr. Mayhew provided recommendations regarding the establishment of the center. The proposal and recommendations were discussed by the Graduate Deans and the Graduate Council on how to best establish such a center.

II

Throughout the 2005-2006 academic year, the committee discussed campus safety issues. Recommendations were created regarding what issues and activities the Student Concerns Committee might want to consider. They are as follows:

- 1) Take part in assessing the SGA sponsored Safety Walk that is held annually.
- 2) Ascertain what safety issues are covered by the Dean of Students' Office during orientation for incoming students and request the Dean of Students' Office include safety issues during orientation and in other appropriate interactions with students.
- 3) Research which resources are currently available to students regarding campus safety. (e.g., Are safety issues discussed with student organizations through workshops, etc.? What type of support is provided to victims of crime on campus?)