



The Graduate College

To: Members of the Graduate Faculty, Academic Department Chairs,
Graduate Program Directors/Coordinators, and Academic Deans

From: Mike Dishman, Professor & Interim Dean of The Graduate College

Re: Graduate College Reorganization

Date: March 20, 2017

It gives me great pleasure to announce the following reorganization of The Graduate College. This reorganization is the result of an analysis of substantial feedback from graduate applicants, students, Graduate Faculty members, Graduate Program Coordinators/Directors, and academic deans, and analyses of comparator and aspirational programs. The reorganization will significantly increase KSU's support for graduate programs, students, and faculty, providing specialized expertise in marketing and communication. It will also move KSU to a very data-informed model for graduate admissions, recruitment, and growth, one in which service to applicants, faculty, and programs is prominent.

As of April 1, 2017, Mr. David Baugher, Assistant Dean of Graduate Students, will be promoted to Senior Assistant Dean of The Graduate College. David's new portfolio will involve overseeing managerial aspects of the College and graduate programs, including data analysis.

On that same date, Ms. Nikki Palamiotis will assume David's former position, becoming Assistant Dean for Graduate Students. Nikki has tremendous experience in graduate education in the State of Georgia, serving in administrative positions at Armstrong State University and leading the Graduate Office at Southern Polytechnic State University. She has also led the "New U's" Office of Graduate Admissions since the consolidation of KSU and SPSU. Unlike David's service in the position – in which he had to divide his time between a number of roles – Nikki will be virtually entirely dedicated to graduate student support. Nikki will also coordinate the University's graduate assistantship program. This will significantly deepen support for KSU's graduate students.

On March 6, 2017, Dr. Mark Forehand became KSU's first Assistant Dean of International Graduate Programs and Director of Graduate Admissions. Mark previously served as Director of International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSSO) within KSU's Division of Global Affairs. He is well-versed in the challenges of bringing international students to

Kennesaw Hall • Office 3422 • MD 0111 • 585 Cobb Avenue • Kennesaw, GA 30144-5591

Phone: 470-578-6738 • Fax: 470-578-9110 • graduate.kennesaw.edu

our campus, and has a long and varied background in international relations, teaching, and law. Most impressively, Mark won KSU's Supervisor of the Year for 2016. Nikki and Mark are working collectively on admissions through the end of March 2017, when Nikki will transition to her new role.

We are also excited to announce Ms. Loretta Daniels has joined us as the first Executive Director of Communications & Strategic Planning. She previously served as Director of Communication and Marketing in the University College, where she was responsible for all aspects of marketing and public relations efforts, including the development of innovative communication and marketing plans to increase brand identity, student enrollment and program development. In her new capacity, she will be responsible for overseeing all communications and University-level strategic planning for The Graduate College, working with graduate programs to develop marketing, communications, and strategic growth plans. Her energy and wealth of experience will enable us to proceed with new initiatives that, to be candid, we simply did not have capacity to implement. Prior to joining KSU, Ms. Daniels served as the Chief Operations Officer and National Sales Director of CCS Medical, a 1,500-employee medical support company.

In the months remaining in the 2017 Academic Year, Mark and Loretta will request meetings with Chairs and Graduate Program Directors/Coordinators, assisting in developing marketing/recruitment plans, communications strategies, and asking about other ways in which The Graduate College can centrally support graduate programs.

In addition to those joining The Graduate College or moving to exciting new opportunities within it, Dr. Jeff Chastine, Professor of Gaming and Software Engineering and Interim Associate Dean of The Graduate College, will continue to have primary responsibility for matters relating to Graduate Faculty, curriculum, and policy. Each and all of these areas of responsibility offer new and exciting opportunities – and seemingly on a daily basis – to make further reorganization unnecessary.

Finally, as we move toward Summer Semester 2017, please watch for other items from The Graduate College, including:

- (1) Final proposals for revisions of University Graduate Policy and Procedure – After several months of working with the Graduate Council, revisions to policy and procedure are being reviewed by GPCC and moving forward. These changes respond to identified challenges and hopefully significantly streamline processes.
- (2) Funding Opportunities for Graduate Faculty for Summer Projects – During Summer Semester 2017, The Graduate College will again provide opportunities for Graduate Faculty to work on projects relating to graduate education.

Graduate Faculty, Chairs, Graduate Program Directors, and Deans

March 20, 2017

Page 3 of 3

- (3) AY18 Graduate Assistantship Programs – The Graduate College will soon announce the applications window for Academic Year 2018 Graduate Assistantship Funding. For the second year, these initial reviews and funding recommendations will be conducted by a University-wide elected committee of the Graduate Faculty – something about which we're very pleased.

Thank you for your continuing support of graduate education at Kennesaw State University.