

**Rethinking Graduate Education**  
**Charge for the Graduate Education Major Initiative Committee**  
**November 14, 2007**

In his September 17 State of the Campus address to the University Senate, President Mote reiterated the four initiatives that the Deans and Vice Presidents backed, during their summer 2006 retreat, as being necessary to advance the University to world-class stature. Among these was:

“We must develop a top-class graduate program experience.”

Drawing on the report (attached) of the working group that followed up on this theme after the retreat, on information about graduate programs at other institutions, on community input and any other relevant information and advice, and on your bold vision of the future, formulate specific recommendations and a proposed timetable for actions that address the challenge of dramatically improving the experience of our graduate students. You should include a statement of our vision of what this experience and the structure of our graduate education enterprise should be like in the future. This vision might include, among others, issues of proper program size, student recruitment, student financial support, mentoring, job placement, graduate assistant workloads, housing, and community involvement. Please feel free to consult with anyone inside or outside the university community who might provide useful insight in this area.