Accomplishments

- Drafted six pillar principles.
- Established eight criteria for evaluating graduate programs.
- Drafted two main goals with subgoals and recommendations.
- Consultations with Academic Planning and Assessment offices and Graduate Enrollment Management to obtain data on numbers of graduate programs, graduate admissions, graduate enrollment, progress toward the degree, and student satisfaction.

Outreach Efforts

- Hosted a public forum to gather input from the GW community.
- Met with graduate deans and collected written input from them on topics such as school criteria for graduate program evaluation, decision making mechanisms, relevant data, and suggestions for the strategic plan.
- Sent graduate student survey to random sample, graduate student organizations, and graduate program directors for distribution to their students.
- Held data gathering sessions with graduate enrollment management and marketing/recruitment representatives, CCAS Graduate Studies Committee, Career Services Council, and market research firm Burning Glass.

Challenges

- The complexities of graduate education are a challenge we are addressing by developing multiple indicators of multiple characteristics.
- Too little time (and too few pages) to do justice to the task. We are addressing this by working hard, planning appendices, and assuming that a number of important needs we are uncovering must be left to others to address later [example: making improvements in university services to enhance the graduate student experience].
- Lack of and/or difficulty obtaining some of the data required for a meaningful evaluation of graduate program quality (e.g., long-term employment outcomes and achievements of graduates).
Issues of Greatest Focus – Preliminary Recommendations

- Improve the quality of GW’s graduate education by:
  - implementing across schools a set of graduate education criteria with associated indicators that define distinguished and distinctive graduate education;
  - implementing processes using the criteria to identify a select number of doctoral programs to be elevated to national preeminence;
  - revising and implementing processes for the ongoing review and improvement of all doctoral and master’s programs; and
  - recommending enhancements of the general university climate for graduate students.

- Make the planning and management of graduate education more strategic, rational, intentional, and coordinated across schools by:
  - appointing a Vice Provost for Graduate Studies;
  - strengthening interactions among cross-school advisory groups and offices associated with the Vice Provost; and
  - tasking the Vice Provost and Council of Graduate Deans with facilitating cross-school interdisciplinary programming, reducing cross-school competition and duplication, establishing and using a market research capability, improving the tracking of alumni outcomes, and regularizing the financial analysis of graduate programs.

Next Steps

- Finish data collection, digest the data we have more fully, and create select summary tables portraying the “Current State.”
- Solidify committee consensus on the plan’s main elements.
- Begin work on plan metrics and resources.