

**Graduate Administrators Council (GAC)  
Minutes  
Constant Hall, Dean's Conference Room  
March 1, 2012**

**Attending:** Brenda Neumon Lewis (Chair), Chris Osgood, Isao Ishibashi, Bill Heffelfinger, Austin Jersild, Ali Ardalan, Mary Swartz, Richardean Benjamin, and Mona Danner.

**Guest:** Tisha Paredes

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#### 4. Graduate Needs Survey

Tisha Paredes from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment gave a preliminary overview on the results of the Graduate Needs Survey.

- The survey was open over a 3 week timeframe and 32 % of all degree seeking graduate students, who were not in the first or last semesters, were asked to take the survey.
- 59% of the respondents were female and 52% were Master's students
- Time management, work life balance and finances were issues they indicated were most important to their success in graduate school
- Housing, safety and mentoring issues created their stress as students
- The top 3 issues identified that would aid in their success were: an increase in career search assistance, information on scholarships, and funding for traveling to conferences and professional meetings
- 2/3 of the respondents indicated that they were unlikely to be a part of a graduate organization; Fifty percent of Asians and Hispanics indicated that were likely to be involved in a graduate organization. It should be noted that 77% of the respondents indicated that they lived on or near campus.
- The respondents graded their overall experience at ODU as