

Focus Group End of Year Report for 2023

Name of Focus Group **Graduate Directors Focus Group**

Chair/Co-chairs **Alan Taylor**

Chair/Co-chairs email **tayloral@ecu.edu**

1. What were your focus groups major activities or accomplishments this year?

At our last focus group meeting (2022), our group brainstormed/discussed ways to effectively utilize the GRE and ways to determine quality measuring points beyond the GRE scores. We discussed interviewing and writing samples – and each program shares their best application review practices.

We also discussed issues of plagiarism and cheating - and how we as directors can help prohibit such actions among our graduate students.

We reaffirmed that our focus group could be a starting point for providing these academic members an opportunity to discuss, learn and share successful teaching, mentoring or program strategies with all of us. While we didn't plan a graduate education symposium for 2023 - at our upcoming 2023 focus group meeting, we plan to discuss what might be an appropriate graduate education topic for an official proposal for the 2024 conference.

It was also decided to make a change our focus group leader - with a change happening at our 2023. I have been the Focus Group Chair since 2016 and I feel it will be best for our group to have someone who is excited to take our group to a next level. There were 1-2 members who said they would be interested in being the chair of this group starting in November 2023.

2. What has your focus group done during the past year to further NCFR's inclusion and diversity initiatives?

In our focus group discussion regarding graduate admissions practices, we explicitly discussed how to include the best admission practices and policies that will generate inclusive and diverse application pools. In our last discussion re: GRE scores, we discussed the challenges this assessment produces as it often negatively impacts diverse applicants. It was helpful to hear how other universities are focusing on social justice in their application process as well as focusing on better preparing and training our students as social justice activists and changers within their communities. We plan to follow up in our 2023 Focus Group Meeting to see if changes were made in any application review processes and if those changes were viewed as successful steps to inclusion and diversity.

3. Please list any concerns, questions or suggestions.

None at this time. We appreciate the ability to meet each year at NCFR.