**Discussion Questions**

**GPTI Session on Teaching Aptitude/Capacity Building**

One dimension of our GPTI conversations will involve issues related to the process of graduate student acceptance to a course of study. As I reflected on the topic, it occurred to me that a majority of graduate programs are not principally concerned with a graduate student's capacity or aptitude for teaching during the application process, but with their ability to engage in rigorous graduate level scholarship. It also occurred to me that teaching capacity or aptitude is something that is discerned by graduate school faculty as students engage in particular seminars. Specific identifying marks for discernment of student teaching capacity and the assignment of students to teaching assistantships for each institution is not readily available.

Who do you bring into the program?

1. What are the most important application items for consideration when admitting doctoral students to your graduate school program?
2. Is there anything in your application or selection process of graduate students that highlights a student's capacity or aptitude for teaching?
3. What materials in your application process help you identify teaching aptitude of potential graduate students or graduate students after they have arrived on campus?
4. What expectations does your website and printed materials convey regarding graduate school expectations about teaching?
5. How does your institution communicate expectations about building graduate student teaching capacity?
6. Is there any process in place for the identification of particular student capacities for teaching once they are involved with graduate level seminars?
7. What are the marks of teaching capacity or aptitude? How would you determine a student had a capacity for teaching? (Quick write exercise)
8. Are there graduate students who never gain an opportunity to teach at your institution? Why?
9. What expectations does the graduate school convey to incoming graduate students about expectations for excellence in teaching?
10. Other questions