

**Ad Hoc Graduate Student Success Meeting
February 26, 2015**

Present: BSOM: Terry Oroszi
CECS: Caroline Cao (chair)
CONH: Rosemary Eustace
SOPP: Chris Modica
Graduate School: Bill Ayres, Erika Gilles (scribe)
Institutional Research: Craig This
Center for Urban & Public Affairs: Carol Murray

Absent: CEHS: Maggie Veres
COLA: Laura Luehrmann
COSM: Gregory Kozlowski
RSCOB: Riad Ajami
Undergraduate Student Success Committee: Doug Petkie (co-chair)

Dr. Cao thanked all committee members for collecting information from their respective college faculty.

- 1. What are the major cultural obstacles for our international graduate students? For our American/resident students?*
- 2. What are some solutions that the department can implement to address these obstacles?*
- 3. Should these solutions be implemented university-wide?*

Based on faculty feedback to the above questions, the committee identified recurring themes and developed a list of student issues and solutions/recommendations.

ISSUES

1. Language (reading and writing)
2. Program-specific skills
3. Cultural expectations:
 - Written communication
 - Oral communication
 - Pedagogy
 - Integrity (plagiarism)
4. Unfamiliarity with graduate education
5. Clarity of information
6. Staff and faculty – “customer service” and cultural competence

SOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Encourage students to use combination of: LEAP, help-rooms, workshops, clubs/orgs
2. Graduate student mentors/ “buddy system” / Peer Tutoring (2nd year student paired with 1st year student)
3. Advising and Advisor Training (monitoring for retention/developing program timelines)
4. “Refresher” orientations
5. Survey graduate students – now (short-term) and continuously to track changes (long-term)
6. Communication campaign to create awareness; offer training like “safe spaces”

Action items:

1. Terry Oroszi will draft a recommendation document based on the day’s discussion. The draft should include the committee’s actions, the list of issues, and short-term and long-term responses.
2. Caroline Cao will distribute the draft document to the committee prior to the next meeting which is Tuesday, March 3, 12:00-1:00 p.m., E157A Student Union.