

**Ad Hoc Graduate Student Success Meeting
December 9, 2014**

Present:

BSOM: Terry Oroszi

CECS: Caroline Cao (chair)

CEHS: Maggie Veres

COLA: Laura Luehrmann

CONH: Rosemary Eustace

COSM: Gregory Kozlowski

COSM-alt: Amit Sharma

RSCOB: Riad Ajami

SOPP: Chris Modica

Undergraduate Student Success Committee: Doug Petkie (co-chair)

Faculty Senate: Matt Rizki

Graduate School: Bill Ayres, Erika Gilles (scribe)

Faculty Senate charge to the Committee:

The Ad Hoc Graduate Student Success Committee shall

- 1. plan, develop, provide ongoing evaluation and improvement processes to assess and enable graduate student success*
- 2. plan and develop special support and remediation programs for international students who may experience significant difficulties transitioning into the Wright State environment*
- 3. develop plans and programs to assimilate and counsel students who may be novice to the culture and requirements of higher education*

To that end, the Committee shall work with the Undergraduate Student Success Committee, the University Center for International Education, Wright State International Gateway and the Wright State University Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct. The committee will forward their initial recommendations to the Faculty President prior to the March 2015 meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Matt Rizki stated that the genesis of the Undergraduate Student Success Committee was in response to a need to find ways for struggling undergraduate students to succeed in the higher education environment. It was assumed graduate students did not have similar issues; this idea, however, has been proven false, especially for international graduate students. This population of students faces the challenges of leaving home for the first time (not unlike undergrads) and the different culture and language. In some instances, these challenges can lead to a generalized perception that the students are not prepared, are unwilling to put forth effort, and will resort to cheating to succeed. Contrary to this opinion, some faculty members have discovered that simple solutions, like offering study sessions, increase student performance by a letter grade. The study sessions were started in response to

discussions with students to find out what they needed to help them succeed. This is the purpose of the ad hoc Graduate Student Success Committee – identify student problems and respond by putting the help in place so students can be successful.

Discussion:

- Can we survey graduate programs to find out what they are already doing to mentor new students?
- Can we gather data that shows completion rates?
- Can we offer training for faculty/staff re: strategies for working with international students?
- Can we survey students to ask what they see as challenges? (No one-on-one time? Language? Etc.)
- Should a course be developed that explains the social norms of the American culture?
- Should LEAP offer a science/technology focused course?
- Should academic standards be more uniform instead of being dependent on individual faculty?
- Should there be universal standards for advising?

Some apparent needs based on the discussion:

(1) faculty/staff development, (2) supporting resources/infrastructure, and (3) student identified needs

Next steps:

(1) Matt Rizki recommended the Committee meet with CUPA to discuss the creation of a survey for the graduate students. He also recommended that Barb Bullock (Institutional Research) be invited to the next meeting. She can provide outcome data.

(2) Schedule a meeting in January, in February, and in March. The Committee should be prepared to make a recommendation to the Faculty Senate at the March 23 meeting. At minimum, the Committee should know the scope of the problem. Perhaps the ad hoc Graduate Student Success Committee will need to become a standing committee of the Faculty Senate.

Keep in mind:

(1) The Faculty Senate has invited UCIE and WSIG to the January Executive Committee meeting to review their processes

(2) The Undergrad and Graduate Policies Committees are reviewing the international admission criteria

(3) The Student Success Committees are looking for ways to alter the environment to help students be successful

Data and information will be shared among these committees. Please contact Matt Rizki or Bill Ayres.

Bill Ayres will provide Graduate School resources:

(1) Spring 2013 Survey of 50+ graduate programs' advising practices

(2) Council of Graduate Schools' 2011 Survey of STEM and MBA new and exiting students

(3) White paper on Advising

Doug Petkie will contact Tom Sudkamp re: "Education Advisory Board" materials related to graduate student challenges.

Meeting adjourned: 4:30 p.m.