

Ad Hoc Graduate Student Success Meeting
January 22, 2015

Present:

BSOM: Terry Oroszi

CECS: Caroline Cao (chair)

CEHS: Maggie Veres

CONH: Rosemary Eustace

COSM: Gregory Kozlowski

RSCOB: Riad Ajami

SOPP: Chris Modica

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

Graduate School: Bill Ayres, Erika Gilles (scribe)

Institutional Research: Craig This

Center for Urban & Public Affairs: Carol Murray

Absent:

COLA: Laura Luehrmann

Dr. Cao opened the discussion by suggesting that Dr. Ayres' white paper on advising offers some structural remedies. She also asked if the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) survey results could be correlated with the advising characteristics of the graduate programs. (Reminder: The CGS survey was conducted in 2011-2012 and only included graduating master's students in STEM and MBA programs). Dr. Ayres responded that, unfortunately, the data set is not large enough to provide a correlation.

Some possible advising-related questions to include in a survey:

- Identify the advising structure/common practice
- Identify type of student (thesis/non thesis)
- How is a student assigned an advisor?
- How often does the advisor meet with the student?
- Does the advisor stay the same throughout the course of the program?
- What is the time to degree?
- What interventions are in place?

Craig This explained that IR can identify what data sets are available/not available. Availability is dependent on what is collected, what is entered, and if the data is clean.

Dr. Ayres requested retention/graduation data for cohorts that begin in spring and summer semesters.

Summary at this point:

(1) Two surveys will be conducted: one will survey the graduate programs to identify current advising practices and the other will survey graduate students to learn their experiences and perceptions. The

CGS survey will be repeated, but will include all students this time. Some additional questions may be added to address some of the specific issues that appear to hinder success. Carol Murray recommended that the graduate program survey be conducted first. The answers from that survey will be used to develop the questions for the graduate student survey.

(2) IR will attempt to correlate advising practices with student outcomes (Graduated? Time to degree?)

(3) Dr. Cao suggested that if the survey results support the recommendations in Dr. Ayres' Advising paper, then the ad hoc Committee may want to consider submitting the same recommendations to Faculty Senate.

Terry Oroszi asked the Committee members to also consider the development of specific programs that will help students succeed, and in particular, programs for international students.

In response, Dr. Cao gave a brief description of the international graduate student reception that CECS sponsored in Fall 2014. She also provided an outline of content for four CECS Graduate Student Success Modules.

Other ideas:

- Develop country-specific handbook(s) to assist faculty and staff in responding to cultural differences
- Offer programs for faculty and staff
- Change environment – for example, designate spaces for prayer
- Revise admission standards?

Dr. Ayres shared information gathered for the Graduate Policies Committee for their review of international graduate admission standards. The IR data set included all international students who enrolled Fall 2012-Fall 2014:

- 1,177 graduate international students: 842 (72%) from India, 122 from Saudi Arabia, 95 from China, and remaining from all other countries.
- 75% of the students were enrolled in a CECS program, 5% in RSCOB, 5% in COSM, 5% in BSOM, 5% in LEAP, and the remaining 5% in the other colleges/schools.
- No correlation could be found between language score and 1st semester GPA or language score and final GPA.
- Weak correlation between undergraduate international GPA and graduate GPA.
- By ethnic groups, the Chinese students have GPA 0.2 higher than average; Indian students have GPA 0.2 lower; and Saudi Arabian students have average GPA after the 1st term but GPA is 0.2 higher by final semester. The median GPA is 3.2.

The Graduate Policies Committee decided to not change international admission standards based on this evidence.

Action item: Dr. Cao will develop a list of questions for which graduate programs can identify problems that may be inhibiting student success and suggest possible solutions. These questions, once approved by CUPA, will be distributed to the programs with the help of the ad hoc Student Success Committee members. Responses will be collected in time for review and discussion at the next meeting on Feb. 26.

Meeting adjourned: 4:20 p.m.