

Open Forum on Strategic Analysis of Graduate Programs:

Feb. 23rd, 2017, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Eucalyptus Room

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Dr. Schoepfer, Criminal Justice Program Coordinator; Dr. Stanley, Chair, College of Natural Sciences; Dr. Luck, College of Arts and Letters; Mr. Weingarten, prospective student

Chair: Francisca Beer

Welcome: Dr. Beer gave an overview of the strategic analysis process. Data has been collected through Institutional Research, Council of Graduate Schools, past accreditation and self-study reports and a graduate student survey. A survey for faculty is being designed. The meeting was opened to questions and comments.

Questions and Comments:

Application, Admission, and Enrollment Data: Applications for graduate programs have declined over the past few years, but enrollment levels have remained fairly steady. An increase in the acceptance rate has made up for a lack of applications.

Access to Data: The data that was collected is no longer available on the website, due to concerns from some faculty members. Data is collected at the university, college, and program levels. The university-level data may be released in the future.

Several participants requested that a summary of the results of the analysis and recommendations be published in a report and made available to the campus. It was also suggested that recommendations be posted on the website and the campus community be given the opportunity to comment.

The steering committee is seeking information on alumni. One participant stated that she was able to obtain a mailing list from Alumni Affairs, but it took some time to get the list and approval to contact the former students. The steering committee will re-contact Alumni Affairs.

Financial Need: several participants stated that the university needs to offer more scholarships and other forms of funding to graduate students. Additional funding opportunities would attract more applicants and reduce student debt. It was noted that many graduate students have additional financial obligations, such as families to support. A number of requests for leave of absence are due to lack of funds to pay for graduate school.

Conclusion:

Dr. Beer stressed that the purpose of the strategic analysis is to provide a picture of the status of our graduate programs and discover what changes may make the biggest impact. Many of the concerns echoed those of the previous open forum – access to data, and a desire to provide scholarships and other funding to boost enrollment and support students. The comments and suggestions will be reviewed by the steering committee.