Graduate Studies Committee Report - September 2021

The Graduate Studies Committee met on Friday, September 3, 2021.

The meeting began at 11:30 AM with updates from the Chair, with contributions from members who also served on the following Committees & Subcommittees last academic year:

Committee on Affordability of Joint Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees – Committee looking at tuition issues impacting 3/2 and 4/1 programs, specifically the Grad portions of programs – work is ongoing.

GSC discussed different models employed by their schools/programs.

Graduate Student Services/SP - Tuition & Investment Sub-Committee - This Sub-Committee looked at affordability issues for graduate students, recommended, among other things, that a tuition study assessing competitors be conducted. Provost’s Office has commissioned Hanover to conduct this study.

GSC members expressed concern that this data be properly analyzed and utilized, and will request from Associate Cuccia that the Committee be involved in these processes. The group expressed concern that both the availability and value of Graduate Assistantships be continued to be included in the graduate tuition/recruitment conversation.

Council for Student Success – This Committee looked at several factors to improve the student experience at SHU. A study on marketing was proposed and PR/Marketing has contracted with Lipman Hearne to conduct focus groups of graduate entities to help direct “an effort to identify strategies toward the development of a centralized graduate marketing plan.”

Chair was invited by AP Cuccia and Marketing to participate in a group, and AP Cuccia will be arranging for a group of GSC members. Members requested a copy of the questions that will be the focus of the group be forwarded – Chair will request this.

APSA subgroup 2 – This Sub-committee was tasked with developing a set of criteria to assess the relative value, excluding financial value, the Doctoral programs bring to SHU, to be used as a secondary evaluative measure for any Doctoral programs that are flagged during the APSA process. The Sub-committee developed such a protocol, however, GSC members and others on the APSA 2 Committee requested that this protocol subsequently be presented to the Faculty Senate for vetting prior to being used. It is unclear if such vetting will occur, though the Sub-Committee was instructed to employ the protocol with current Doctoral programs. It is not known how this assessment might be used.

GSC Chair was approached by Senate Admissions Committee Chair last year to begin a conversation between Committees regarding Graduate Admissions. GSC Chair is seeking 3-4 GSC members to meet with Admissions representatives to brainstorm how our Committees might work together on this.

The GSC received a request to bring forward a “Motion on Report to the Board on Re-Organization.” The GSC considered this request but did not believe that this was in its purview. However, the GSC strongly supports the intent of the motion and encourages a Committee more central to this issue to present such a motion, perhaps the Academic Policy Committee or the Executive Committee.

The GSC agreed to invite Associate Provost, Chris Cuccia, to attend our next meeting, and to again invite Provost Katia Passerini to a subsequent meeting.

The Chair is inviting nominations to serve as Co-Chair of the GSC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Corrigan, GSC Chair