

## Graduate Studies Committee Report – May 2022

The Graduate Studies Committee met on Friday, May 13, 2022.

We began the discussion with a conversation regarding the presentation of the Lipman Hearne report presented to the University (and contained in the PowerPoint shared with Committee members). The findings of the report were discussed, as well as participants perceptions of the meeting that followed, where small groups discussed the Lipman Hearne report, followed by reports from the Colleges on their plans to enhance graduate student recruitment/enrollment.

Several members also attended the Strategic Plan update sessions and discussed their impressions.

The remainder of the meeting focused on sending a letter to the Senate, for approval and forwarding to the Provost, regarding our recommendations that the University consolidate the administrative functions of marketing, recruiting, and servicing graduate students into one entity (see attached letter). The majority of members approved sending the letter. It was also decided to invite the Ad Hoc Graduate Studies/Admissions Committee to join us in sending this letter (invitation has been sent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Corrigan, GSC Chair

## Senate Guidance to the Provost to Enhance Graduate Education at Seton Hall University

There are many overlapping administrative functions that are common to all graduate programs, specifically in the areas of recruitment, marketing, and affordability. The Senate suggests to the Provost's Office to enhance the current Graduate Education infrastructure by offering the option to each College or School the ability to invest in a centralized unit to maintain and improve these services, through the consolidation of current staff and resources dedicated to graduate education in participating Colleges/Schools, under the Office of Graduate Affairs. Through the RCM model, a School or College can opt out of such a cooperative unit, choosing to continue to operate as currently structured.

Under the current decentralized system for addressing these needs, there are often times where untrained and under-supported faculty and staff are undertaking functions with little to no coordination with the larger University. This has led to the duplication of some efforts and overlooking of others. A centralized location can train, support, and coordinate all graduate admission efforts. Such a Unit would allow for specialization, creating efficiencies in function, while offering expertise to all who might benefit from such specific knowledge. Best practices can be developed and refined.

More so, this Unit would provide a necessary intellectual home that would allow for a broad visioning of graduate studies at Seton Hall. Bringing together faculty, Deans, and upper Administration for a common goal, this unit will provide a central place to consider the larger issues confronting graduate education, such as affordability concerns and serving as a place to nurture and support innovative ideas.

There are unique requirements for admission to our varied graduate programs and, therefore, setting and assessing admission requirements must always be addressed by each specific program. Similarly, all curricular and faculty governance structures would remain unchanged.

Funded by RCM contributions from cooperating colleges/schools, this Office would look to replicate the success of undergraduate enrollment by replicating the infrastructure Seton Hall has developed to address these needs at the undergraduate level. Such a new centralized unit will be able to take these pooled resources and look to rival the tremendous success achieved by Undergraduate Admissions over the past recent past.

Respectfully,

Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Committee

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Graduate Studies/Admissions Committee