

Senate Graduate Education and Research Committee

November 20, 2023 3:00 pm

Members: Alison Gustafson, Kenneth Campbell, Lisa Cassis, Mei Chen, Jennifer Hunt, Kristin Monroe, Joseph Sottile, Nathan Vanderford, John Bauer

Call to order:

1. Roll Call

Alison Gustafson, Kenneth Campbell, Mei Chen, Jennifer Hunt, Kristin Monroe, Joseph Sottile, Nathan Vanderford

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Nothing to approve

3. Old Business [if needed] – N/A

4. Agenda Item – a Senate member brought to our attention the following general items for discussion and review.

a. Doctoral supervising faculty and measurement of graduate student retention/success post-qualifying exams.

- The committee discussed that all students go through assessment processes with various evaluation stages. Each college and/or department is different with measurement, however the graduate school as a whole keeps data regarding these statistics.
- There are ways that make these data not comparable across each department but as a whole there is key information available and very transparent from the graduate school.
- A key point is that “success” is highly variable by discipline and there is no one standard definition. We believe this committee is not in the position to discuss what success means for various departments.

b. What expectations regarding doctoral supervision are communicated to faculty?

- There are some current resources available that can be readily accessed.

<https://www.as.uky.edu/graduate-students/mentoring-networking>

<https://gradschool.uky.edu/graduate-data-portal-login-required>

- Group members discussed that there could be standardization to some extent regarding expectations and perhaps this is something to consider. We are not sure this is a Senate committee item but the members would be happy to investigate what our departments are utilizing for setting and adhering to expectations regarding doctoral supervision.
- The members discussed the need for making expectations explicit to allow both faculty and students to be successful in their work.

- The committee felt this was a valuable construct to address and is seeking Senate Chair input on whether more investigation in this matter is part of the purview of this committee and Senate in general.

c. How is their performance as supervisors of graduate students' independent work (e.g. dissertation) measured?

- The committee discussed how evaluation of supervisors within this smaller population might be difficult. The TCE's for teacher performance can be hard to obtain since classroom size can be quite small.
- There is no course evaluation because it's a relationship between supervisor and student and not related to a specific course. There is no formal evaluation of advising graduate students.
- Metrics on mentoring are hard to track. Report from external examiner but often times it's not filled in. Hard to collect data from students and it's nearly impossible to de-identify. Hard to track in a consistent way across the University.

5. New Business

Items discussed above.

b. Next Agenda Item

We are asking Senate chair if the committee should investigate any of the above issues and report back to the chair? Or are these items not part of Senate responsibilities?

6. Items from the Floor

-Any items from the floor? None were raised.

Time Adjourned:

3:30 pm