Name of Committee: Grad Council

Date of Meeting: 04/07/2016

Name of Grad. student attending meeting: Andrea Jilling (along with Amanda Sobel, Patrick Lacroix, and Ezra Temko)

1) Grad School Dean Harry Richards announced that he will be retiring this summer. He did not elaborate on how his position will be filled. The GSS should consider offering our thanks (along with a card or other gesture?) to express our appreciation for his leadership and support.

2) The Grad School shared results from two surveys:

1) of applicants (both those that accepted or declined offers)/grad school alum:

Take Homes:
- Grad students are enrolling due to high quality faculty/program
- Nearly half of grad students previously attended UNH
- Non-enrolling admits declined admission due to 1) tuition costs, 2) preferred another institution, or 3) quality of communication from program admitted to
  - 4 out of the 6 top competitors for this group were regional competitors

2) Institutional profile from survey of earned doctorates (2014) compared with national averages:
- includes information on postgraduation plans (status and plans), such as what proportion are on postdocs now, work in academe/goverment, etc.
- includes information on average salaries and debt levels across doctorate recipients

Full details from these surveys will be shared at the next GSS meeting.

3) VP of Enrollment Management Victoria Dutcher visited to discuss graduate student enrollment goals and challenges (Note: the following perspectives are from the members of Grad Council, which is composed of faculty and reps of the Grad School. In general, Victoria Dutcher did not express any concrete ideas around what she can/can't do in her position. She made it clear that she was there to listen and start a conversation):

- At doctoral level, we are not competitive with other research universities who will often waive tuition on sponsored programs
  - If funded on federal program, tuition waived and those dollars used to supplement your stipend
  - Need to ensure summer support --> Would cost university(only)
  1 million
  - A concern that much more energy spent to increase student funding/support for those in STEM fields; those in liberal arts feel left behind
  - Need to look at bigger picture; where is money going and why? What does it say about how we value doctoral programs; sources of funding for humanities shrinking, university shouldn’t desert these program
  - How to raise profile of graduate students/research being done
- Any way to increase financial support for both graduate students and their advisors would be key – as Dovev showed us with the survey, the top reason for declining an offer is due to cost --> will serve a dual purpose
  - President Huddleston’s priority to increase doctoral productivity, ways to achieve this will also improve enrollment
  - Ensuring support over summer term
  - Create incentives for advisors to put students onto grants, instead of TAs;
  - RAs enable students to focus on research that might feed into their dissertation; get their names on publications
- Need endowed fellowships and faculty positions; “scholars- = more prestige

4) Report from Senior Vice Provost for Research Jan Nisbet:
- SPARK research magazine out next week
- Faculty will send to funding agency project officers
- 1 min research video on Office of Research website
- Research News – new online publication
  - Sending to legislators and commissioners
  - Will send to grad students/faculty
- Communicating science initiative
  - Working with small groups of faculty; beginning in the fall
- Won 2 NSF GRFP; 5 honorable mentions; EPA policy fellowship; Fulbright