Graduate Program Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

1:30 – 3:00 pm, Library 767

Meeting Highlights

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| Welcome & Introductions | GPDs were given the opportunity to share good news and information about future plans/activities. Most indicated the good news about strong enrollment numbers in their programs. |
| Short Discussion Items |  |
| ***Monthly Information Bulletin – Just in Time*** | To disseminate pertinent information in a timely manner, the Graduate School has developed and will send out a monthly bulletin, *Just in Time (JIT)*. The first issue was sent via email and will be sent again. Please check your emails. |
| ***Fall Enrollment Update*** | We are now over 2,500 enrolled students. This is an increase of 70+ more than last year. The PhDs are up by 5 and Masters’ are up by 90. We are working with DPS and the Training Centers to rethink how we deliver graduate level courses. Research trends have shown that students are looking at specialty programs that build on their area of expertise. Many of our new programs are doing well. In particular, the MPS in Data Science is doing very well. |
| ***MyUMBC group*** | All GPDs have been invited to be a part of the GPD group site on MyUMBC. All GPD meeting materials are saved in this location. |
| Pathway Program and Conditional Admission Program – Sarah Gardenghi | In Spring 2019, the Graduate School and ELI will launch a pathway program for international students. Students who meet the credentials but are deficient in English can be offered conditional admission (which has been around for years). These students must apply at ELI and complete a series of English courses before starting their program courses. The new way to admit an international student is through a pathway program. Students with a deficiency in English, who need to start their program immediately, will still take the English courses. However, they will also be able to take one pre-selected graduate course as part of the pathway. |
| Lessons Learned for GPD Effectiveness – Jeff Halverson | **TEN IMPORTANT THINGS EVERY GPD SHOULD KNOW (Part 1) – The first 4 items on the list were reviewed. The remaining 6 will be discussed during the October meeting.**   * Grad faculty membership – it was noted that anyone teaching a grad course needs to be grad faculty or have a supervisor; new faculty should be placed on committees so that by their 3-year review, they will be eligible for Regular membership * 5/4 Year Rule –Requests for extensions to complete a degree should be sent directly to Jeff Halverson * GA Handbook –The handbook is online, and one should refer to the handbook before making certain decisions. In addition, GPDs were advised to contact Jeff Halverson if they are considering terminating a GA’s contract. * Rules for Committee Nominations and Paperwork – during this discussion it was suggested that the language on the nomination form about defense date causes confusion. Jeff will consider changes. |
| Announcements | * Doctoral Candidacy Ceremony, Tuesday, November 13 (Deadline for submission of application for candidacy to participate in the ceremony is October 15) * GPD training on admissions systems and REX report, October 25 |

Seminars and Events can be found at:

<http://my.umbc.edu/groups/promise>

Next GPD Meeting: October 10, 2018

Library 767