

Faculty Council, 15 Oct 2021

1:15p Previous minutes approved

Ben Smith lays out agenda for meeting

- Concrete sense of which units in CLAS most dependent on GSFs?
- Which units consider recruitment of graduate students in evaluating faculty?
- Broader proposal for CLAS and beyond: infrastructural investment in graduate education
 - o Faculty have grown (Fac 500) but staff and graduate funding have not caught up

Begin with Dean Richardson providing updates on GSFs:

- Confluence of events:
 - o University use of “technology fees” conflicting with state directives
 - Recovery of costs of “distance education” through DL fees
 - Main driver of fees (statewide) began to be recovery of funding for people (DLTAs) as online education grew
 - \$2.8 million annually
 - became the means of keeping numbers of TAs constant
 - o removal of DLTA fees from college/university by state
 - o excessive spending by Graduate School on GSFs – couldn’t sustain commitments annually
 - led to need to “rightsize” expenditures
- How to respond? Implies massive hit on graduate spending and admissions
 - o Temporary rescue from Provost: \$2 million/year for 3 years for transition away from DL funds
 - o Also committed \$1.35 million/year for four years for a “new GSF” program
 - Current GSFs will be covered

Additional background from AD McCarty

- “mismatches” in OPS between departments
 - o Distribution not necessarily matching TA needs (i.e. enrollments?)
- Some departments dependent on DLTA fees
 - o “not compliant” if those funds used to fund TAs for in-house TAs (or piggybacked online/in-person courses)
- \$2.8 million deficit for DLTAs
 - o ~125 graduate students for 9 months
- \$1.7 million disappearing from funded GSFAs
 - o CLAS generally gets 50/year
 - o 4 year awards, 2 of which are teaching years (and often factored into OPS needs by departments)
- Detailed data on OPS requests to be audited ca. Dec. 2020
- Provost backstops DLTA and and GSF both, but at a lower level and with a 3 year limit

- DL and GSFA “patch” funds were distributed at OPS
- Result was lower amounts for GSFs, closer to TA salaries (but with 2 years reserved for RA positions meant to serve student research needs)
- CLAS will hold funds centrally

Ben Smith on FC role in all of this:

- Mitigation of effects on evaluation of faculty?
- Relative dependencies of units on these funds for recruitment?
- Role of recruitment in evaluation across different units?

Chris McCarty: How GSFs are distributed with the idea that they will be used to recruit excellent graduate students; but they often aren’t high enough to do that. Instead they trickle down to other graduate students.

John Palmer: Finance Committee is working to have a recommendation by December for a reworked base allocation of OPS funds w/in CLAS.

Ben Smith: Goal for FC is not to review those data, but to develop a grounded sense of what those OPS/graduate student needs look like (in order to suggest ways to mitigate impact). A synthesis from Finance Committee would work.

Alex Wong on graduate student perspective: does this create a shortage of TAs, down the line? Are graduate students being replaced steadily?

Dean Richardson: Impact on recruiting? Hard to disentangle from Covid. Overall graduate programs don’t seem (anecdotally) to have (yet) experienced impacts to recruitment. State funds, GSFs, and DL funds have been the “normal” sources for funding graduate students.

Previous years: 925 supported TAs

Now: 900 supported TAs (small drop overall, larger in incoming class)

Now + 3 years: 790 supported TAs (~15% fewer students across college)

Ben Smith: Issue of advocating for UF program for refugee scholars and students; not time today but will be addressed on email.

Nancy Hunt: How (un)evenly will decreases affect different units w/in the college?

2pm: adjourned.