What Happens After the Accreditation Visit and Report?

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Grand Valley Overview…

- Established in 1960, 50th-yr celebration in 2010-11
  - History as an undergraduate institution serving west Michigan
- Current total enrollment is 24,408; ~15% graduate
- 123 doctoral and 3,435 masters students for 2009-10
- ≤ 25% of degrees awarded annually are graduate degrees
- 28 graduate degree programs
  - Clinical doctorates
    - DPT in Physical Therapy
    - DNP in Nursing
  - EdS program in Educational Leadership
  - 25 Master’s degree programs; 46 degree options
Prior NCA concern...

- Who speaks for graduate education at GVSU?

- 1999 Challenge - “…the institution should very strongly consider appropriate high-level, campus-wide administrative structures to safeguard standards and protect institutional integrity…”

- Prior to 1999…
  - Admissions, records, policies, and curricular matters were handled by other entities
Institutional Response since 1999

- Hiring of inaugural Graduate Dean in 2000
  - Creation of Office of Graduate Studies & Grants Administration (2 FT staff)
  - Dean reports to Provost; member of Deans Council
  - Grad Program Directors Advisory Group
  - Graduate Assistantship policies and oversight
- Graduate Council (shared governance model; 2004)
  - Elected representatives from each academic college; 2 graduate students
  - Ex-officio members (Admissions, Registrar, Student Services)
  - Policy and Curriculum Sub-committees
- Graduate and Professional Student Association (2006)
- Associate Dean for Graduate Studies (2008)
Focused visits since 1999

- 2004 Focused Visit for Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT)
- 2006 Focused Visit for Ed Specialist degree
  - Given the institution’s clearly stated commitment to baccalaureate education, a comparable commitment to graduate education needs to be developed
    - Clear expectations for teaching, scholarship, and service for faculty involved in graduate education
Challenge #4 – “GVSU needs appropriate high level, campus-wide structures for graduate programs…”

Final Report Findings

- Although the team recognized that a general challenge to the institution is the graduate education infrastructure, they recommended no follow-up based on their findings.
- Administrative view… NCA ‘trusts’ us to continue addressing the remaining issues.
Challenges for Graduate Education

- Despite creation of graduate dean/office, no change in roles/responsibilities regarding admissions, records, etc.
- No change in philosophy or structure
- Graduate Dean’s role remains more of service to lead entities, no support for academic and administrative leadership
- Graduate Council’s influence unchanged
  - Growing need for policy issues to be resolved
    - Example: Process and appointment of Graduate Faculty
How does our institutional culture change to address NCA’s challenge?