

Reflections on the Importance of Political Engagement: Internal & External

John C. Keller
Associate Provost & Dean
Graduate College

Synopsis of Goals

- Explain graduate education and its “role”
 - within the institution
 - within the “state”
 - national – international
- Private gain vs. public investment

Internal Engagement

Faculty / Administration

- Graduate Council
- Graduate Faculty
- Associate Deans
- Deans
- Provost
- VP for Research
- VP for Finance
- President
- UI Foundation / Advisory Board
- UI External Relations
- UI Government Relations

Students

- Graduate Student Senate
- Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students
- COGS (Campaign to Organize Graduate Students)*
- UI Student Government

External Engagement

- Community/ Civic Groups
- State Board of Regents
- State Legislature*
- Federal Legislators (CGS)
- Media* - UI Daily lowan, local papers, Des Moines Register, Chronicle Of Higher Ed, Inside Higher Ed.

Specific Examples

- **Local media** — “the media can be your friend”
 - Advocate – tell good stories
 - Program reviews / closures
 - Editorials to papers
- **Hawkeye Caucus** — Spring event at State Capitol
 - UI “State Fair”
 - Match interests of key legislators with student & program success
 - Face to face discussions with legislators

Specific Examples Cont.

- **Campaign to Org. Graduate Students (COGs)**
 - UI student employee union
 - biennial contract negotiations
 - Dean’s role: advocate for UI & students
- **Other reflections**
 - Pick “battles” – e.g. Pell grants / Stafford loans
 - Public abstract of T-D research
 - Hawkeye faculty engagement tours
 - Invite Regents to commencement events