CGS Summer Workshop 2013
New Deans Institute
Program Quality Assessment

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Topics to be covered

• Indicators of quality in graduate education
• Ranking schemes
• The politics of assessment
• Internal program review
  – Florida State University
  – Purdue
• Planning and budget decisions
What is quality in graduate education?
Quality indicators

• Faculty productivity
  – Publications
  – Citations
  – Awards

• Student success
  – Retention and completion rates and time
  – Placements
How is quality assessed?

Mercedes-Benz
Two Words

- Assessment vs. Accountability
Value of external ranking systems

• Situates institution and programs nationally and internationally
  – May impact recruitment of faculty and students
  – Impacts perception
    • Public
    • Legislators
    • Alumni
  – May impact philanthropy

• Useful for setting benchmarks and goals
External ranking systems

• National Research Council
• US News and World Report
• QS World University
• Shanghai
• National Science Foundation
Limitations of external rankings

• Lack of agreement on what constitutes quality
• Skepticism about metrics and data supplied by institutions
• Reputational vs data driven metrics
• Geared to different audiences
Comparative data

• Integrated postsecondary education data system (IPEDS; [http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/))
  – Largely undergraduate
  – Primary source for data on universities
    • Admissions & enrollment
    • Cost of attendance
    • Financial aid
    • Retention and transfer
    • Degree completion rates and time
    • Degrees awarded
    • Faculty and staff
Data providers

• Academic Analytics
  – Provides data to universities and university systems
    • Articles, books
    • Citations
    • Research funding
    • Honorific awards
Internal program assessment @ FSU

• Quality Enhancement Review (QER)
  – Mandated stated BOG 7 year review
  – Graduate Policy Committee review of graduate programs
  – Provost’s internal reviews of programs relative to unit productivity and outcomes

• Scheduled to coincide with external accreditation reviews

• Oversight by VP for Planning and Programs
QER

• Purpose
  – Examine institutional effectiveness of a program
  – National position with respect to comparable programs
  – What it needs to do to sustain and improve
  – Serve as a basis for administrative decisions on the investment of new and existing resources
QER

• Foundation
  – Self-examination of program
    • Goals
    • Objectives
    • Intended student learning outcomes

• Indicators
  – Instructional activities
  – Research and creative effort
  – Faculty citizenship and service
QER

• Evaluation based on:
  – Program mission and relative to university mission
  – Student learning outcomes specified by the program
QER Self-Study

• Overview
  – Describe the academic program, history, curriculum, accomplishments;
  – Analyze strengths and weaknesses;
  – Short and long-term goals; progress; strategic plan
QER Self-Study

• Undergraduates
• Graduates
• Faculty
• Curriculum
• Resources
• Assessment
• Supporting materials
QER

• External reviewer visits and prepares report
• Exit interview with administration
• Follow up meetings with administration and program
Graduate Policy Committee

• Purpose
  – Ensure programs are academically sound
  – Assist faculty and administration in improving quality
  – Provide independent forum for students and faculty to voice concerns to the administration

• Subcommittee
  – Faculty and students
Graduate Policy Committee

• Focuses on graduate programs
  – History and context of the program
  – Enrollment, retention, and graduation
  – Placement and other indicators of quality
  – Curriculum
  – Professional preparation of students
  – Faculty and instructional personnel
  – Resources and administration
  – Summary and recommendations
Follow up

• Graduate Policy Sub-committee evaluates materials, conducts interviews, and submits report to GPC
• Reports considered by GPC, deans, VP, Provost
• Report submitted to Board of Governors
• Report leads to action plans and follow up after two years
My 2 Cents

• Everyone wants to be #1
• Define one’s mission, constituency, and do the best possible job
• Let individual professional organizations identify top programs by appropriate metrics
• Provide advice to students on how to select the best program that is right for them. Help them through the decision process.