The Graduate Community’s Response to COVID-19: A Discussion with Graduate Deans

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

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Plan for today

- **Short Poll** to understand our members’ challenges.
- **Karen DePauw, Robin Garrell, and Graham Hammill** will each speak briefly on how their institutions responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Panel Discussion** of the major issues confronting leaders in graduate education as they confront this crisis.
- **Q and A.** Panelists will address questions submitted by CGS members about the issues they are facing.
- **Closing and Brief Reminder** of CGS Resources available to help.
Technical Support

- Webinar **recording and slides** will be **emailed** to participants and **posted** on the CGS website.

- Please **submit questions** through the GoToWebinar **control panel**.

Audio Troubleshooting

• Having trouble hearing us? Try switching to a different audio connection. You can change from Telephone to Mic & Speakers or vice versa without leaving the session.

• If you experience trouble with a telephone connection, click “Problem dialing in?” for an alternate phone number to dial.
Introduction:
Suzanne T. Ortega
Which of the following is your institution finding most challenging in its efforts to support graduate education through COVID-19?

a) Addressing issues of graduate student mental health and wellbeing.
b) Identifying and preserving sources of graduate student funding in light of the financial impacts of COVID.
c) Supporting online instruction for and by graduate students.
d) Revising grading policies.
e) Issues related to enrollment for the summer and/or fall session.
Discussion Question #1:

Let’s begin by setting the context. What are the most important things you’re doing now to help your campus and graduate students in light of changes brought about by COVID-19?
COVID-19 RESPONSE

IMMEDIATE: STUDENT WELL-BEING
- Student emergency fund
- RA lab responsibilities

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY
- Policies
  - S/U grading and resignation policies
  - Public thesis and defense
- Processes
  - Remote processing
- Curriculum
  - Degree conferral dates
  - Practical training

COMMUNICATION
- Student-focused website
- Mobilization of existing communication networks
- Student and faculty surveys
Helping graduate students now

Guaranteed spring quarter appointments for TAs and set campus expectation for continuing grad student researcher appointments

Created consolidated list of campus resources [https://grad.ucla.edu/covid-19-resources-and-support/](https://grad.ucla.edu/covid-19-resources-and-support/)
All types; sent by email and posted on multiple sites; updating regularly

Provisioned resources for remote instruction (6-mo. loans)
Laptops: new: providing noise-canceling headphones
Hotspots: iPads

Offering real-time workshops + webinars
Using Zoom
Class engagement via remote instruction

Temporary academic policy changes
Leaves don’t count
P/NP grading options
Time extensions
Admits can defer 2020-21 enrollment
Remote participation in oral exams
For the latest news regarding the Coronavirus, please visit the Graduate School's FAQ page and the University's COVID-19 webpage.

Read Dean DePauw's March 31 email with messages regarding Graduate Student research and employment.

Read Dean DePauw's March 16 email to Graduate Students regarding COVID-19.
Discussion Question #2:

Let’s talk for a moment about what has not gone as smoothly as you might have hoped. Did anything happen as a result of your efforts that you didn’t anticipate? Did you experience any false starts and how did you address these?
Discussion Question #3:

Once you get beyond the challenges of the current semester, what do you see as your biggest priorities for the summer and Fall?
Discussion Question #4:

This moment is certainly unusual and perhaps unprecedented. However, stepping back, are there lessons you are learning from this experience that you think you will carry forward to future challenges?
Questions?

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CGS President’s Office Hours

- Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing of Graduate Students through the COVID-19 Crisis (April 17 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST)
- Federal Policies Addressing COVID-19: What’s Working and What’s Not? (May 6 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST)
- Supporting Master’s Students through COVID-19 (May 12 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST)
- Supporting Doctoral Students through COVID-19 (May 26 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST)
- Planning for Fall: Preventing Graduate Enrollment Melt and Onboarding New Students (June 9 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST)
- Planning for Fall: Supporting and Retaining Current Students (June 16 from 2:00-3:00 PM EST)
Thank You for Participating!

• Discuss responses to the pandemic and follow the conversation on the Dean’s Discussion Board at https://cgsnet.org/deans-discussion-board.

• We are also maintaining a COVID-19 webpage with guidance and resources related to graduate education at https://cgsnet.org/information-cgs-members-coronavirus. To request that a resource be added email Matthew Linton (mlinton@cgs.nche.edu).