Strategic Planning - Setting Graduate College Priorities

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Strategic Planning

What are the key roles played by the Graduate College?

Question #2

What are things we should be doing but aren't?
Before You Start

1. University Strategic Plan
2. Immediate or Urgent Challenges
3. Graduate Education Core Functions
4. Engage your Key Stakeholders
5. What Strategic Planning Process that fits your culture
Factors to Consider Before You Start

1. University Strategic Plan
2. Any Immediate or Urgent Challenges
3. Graduate Education Core Functions
4. Engage your Key Stakeholders
5. What Strategic Planning Process that fits your culture
Factors to Consider Before You Start

1. University Strategic Plan

2. **Immediate or Urgent Challenges**

3. Graduate Education Core Functions

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Factors to Consider Before You Start

1. University Strategic Plan
2. Any Immediate or Urgent Challenges
3. Graduate Education Core Functions
4. Engage your Key Stakeholders
5. Select the Strategic Planning Process that fits your culture
Strategic Planning Steps

1. Establish Aims and Objectives

2. Determine Scope and Timeline for your plan

3. Consult widely

4. Conduct an Environmental Scan or Survey prior to the first retreat

5. Retreat 1 – Give everyone a voice, explore the “big picture”

6. Circulate notes, invite feedback, encourage alternative points of view

7. Retreats 2-3 – Identify priorities, develop short, mid, and long-term action steps

8. Share and refine draft plan, seek input, adjust as needed
### Initial Survey/ Environmental Scan

18. PLEASE SELECT YOUR TOP TEN MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT WE COULD DO BETTER.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase visibility of GC and what it does</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase our ability to connect with faculty</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep the GC website up to date and innovative</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Flip” the GC workshops (i.e. ask participants to review materials online prior to workshops)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help to defuse campus “turf wars” and build collaborations between programs</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrate AIDE more closely with Academic Program review</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate widely for the importance of graduate education in society</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use tech/new media to improve outreach, including video and webinars</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell more stories of student and alumni success</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase diversity of the GC student population</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a strategy for fundraising, Foundation relations, and alumni outreach</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to grow Fellowship opportunities</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track which students get external awards</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Responses: 22
Retreat One – Keep it Simple

All Input Welcomed
Circulate Summaries/Seek Feedback

ROLE: PROVIDES ADVICE, SUPPORT, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO GRADUATE STUDENTS (4.57/5.0)

Three things we do really well:
1. Generating additional funding
2. “The buck stops here”
3. Empathy

Three action steps we can take to do even better:
1. Updating the website

What can we measure to know how well we are doing?
Survey

ROLE: PROVIDES ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO GRADUATE FACULTY (4.09/5.0)

Three things we do really well:
1. Managing processes
2. Expertise (mentoring workshops)
3. Good rapport

Three action steps we can take to do even better:
1. Connecting with faculty
   a. Quick response
   b. Proactive
   c. Communicating resources (especially to new faculty)
   d. Annual meeting attendance
   e. Justifying our existence

What can we measure to know how well we are doing?
Survey

ROLE: PROVIDES ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS (4.83/5.0)

Three things we do really well:
1. Shepherd proposals
2. Expertise
3. Process, standards, and policy
Retreats 2-3

Build buy-in

Work towards consensus

Be patient
Key Questions Addressed

Why is graduate education important for the nation, world, and our university?

What are the key roles played by the Graduate College?

What does the Graduate College do well?

What are areas for improvement?

What are ways to measure success?
Action Steps Selected

- **Metrics & Dashboard**: compile data and present metrics related to graduate education
- **Innovative Academic Programs**: assist academic units in developing and revising degree programs
- **Diversity**: broaden participation in graduate education
- **Student Experience**: enrich student experience and promote student wellness
- **Student Success**: prepare students to thrive in and beyond graduate school
- **Coordination with Campus Units**: support efficient administration of graduate programs
- **Staff Development**: promote professional growth and expertise in graduate education
- **Visibility**: improve the visibility of the Graduate College and our graduate students
A Tradition and Future of Excellence

The year 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, one of the oldest and most respected institutions of higher education in the United States. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offers a wide range of academic programs and degrees in multiple fields. In recognition of this milestone, the Graduate College is launching a strategic plan for the future.

Throughout this document, we highlight recent initiatives and accomplishments that have been made in the Graduate College to ensure that our programs remain competitive and relevant in the 21st century. These initiatives include:

1. Enhancing the diversity of our graduate students and faculty.
2. Improving access to graduate education for underrepresented groups.
3. Expanding opportunities for international graduate students.
4. Strengthening our commitment to excellence in research and teaching.

We believe that these initiatives will position the Graduate College to continue to be a leader in graduate education and research for many years to come.

Overview

The Graduate College is committed to providing a high-quality graduate education that prepares students for successful careers in academia, industry, and government. Our core functions and key goals are outlined below:

1. Academic Services
   - Providing excellent academic programs
   - Supporting graduate research
   - Providing financial aid

2. Programs & Policy
   - Enhancing diversity and inclusion
   - Improving student success
   - Strengthening partnerships with other units

3. Financial Support
   - Securing funding for graduate students
   - Enhancing graduate student financial assistance

4. Student Success
   - Enhancing graduate student experience
   - Supporting career development
   - Fostering an inclusive and supportive environment

5. Communications
   - Engaging with students, faculty, and staff
   - Providing information about graduate education

Our Core Functions

- **Academic Services**
  - Providing excellent academic programs
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- **Programs & Policy**
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- **Communications**
  - Engaging with students, faculty, and staff
  - Providing information about graduate education

Our Mission

The Graduate College provides campus-wide leadership for the advancement of graduate education, promoting excellence, integrity, and equity in all graduate programs. Our mission is to support and serve the scholarly and professional needs of prospective and current graduate students from recruitment and admission through graduation. We work with graduate faculty and staff to develop academic policies and programs designed to assure quality and support student progress.

Eight Action Areas

- **Dashboard & Metrics**
  - Monitoring and evaluating progress on the strategic plan

- **Developing Metrics**
  - Monitoring and evaluating progress on the strategic plan
  - Identifying key performance indicators

- **Creating and sharing a centralized source of data related to graduate education**
  - Providing high-quality and innovative graduate education.

- **Innovative Academic Programs**
  - Developing new academic programs
  - Enhancing existing programs

- **Diversity**
  - Increasing diversity in graduate education
  - promoting diversity and inclusion

- **Student Experience**
  - Enhancing the graduate student experience
  - Fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment

- **Student Success**
  - Supporting graduate student success
  - Enhancing graduate student outcomes

- **Coordination with Campus Units**
  - Enhancing collaboration across campus units
  - Supporting interdisciplinary initiatives
Exercise One

What are the key roles played by the Graduate College?
Exercise Two

In what areas could your graduate college improve?
Questions?