Council of Graduate Schools, December 2022

Making the Case for Centralized Support for Graduate Education

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University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming
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• State Flagship & Land-Grant University
• Only public, 4-year institution in state
• Doctoral – Higher Research Activity (R2)
• Located in Laramie (pop. 32,000)
• Founded in 1886

Largest Programs by Enrollment

- JD (232)
- MBA Exec. (151)
- Ed.D. (131)
- MA in Education (131)
- PharmD (102)
- MS Counseling (75)
- MPA (62)
- PhD Ecology (54)
- MA English (53)
- PhD Psychology (51)

University of Wyoming
THE STUDENTS – FALL 2022

- 11,100 Official Headcount
- 6,005 Female Students (54.1%)
- 5,095 Male Students (45.9%)

THE ENROLLMENT BY LEVEL
Undergraduate
Graduate/Professional
8,518  76.7%
2,582  23.3%
The Graduate Council therefore proposes that the University of Wyoming:

- Re-establish a Graduate School.
- Provide high-level leadership for that school—at the Dean or Vice President level.
- Provide the School and its leadership a robust budget that is capable of supporting the School’s primary functions.
The Office of Graduate Education, Est. 2018

Maintaining
- GA allocations
- Enforcing policy
- Supporting students, faculty & staff

Rebuilding – Making Students a Higher Priority
- Reorganization & consolidation of services
- Hiring staff

Policy Development – High Quality & Flexibility
- Graduate Student Appeals Board
- Graduate Fellowships & Assistantships
- Graduate Committee Formation
- And many others
(See: https://www.uwyo.edu/uwgrad/policies/index.html)

Working on the Big Goals
- Support & oversight of interdisciplinary Programs
- Funding for graduate students
- Council of Graduate Schools Strategic Consultation
CGS Consultation

Graduate School
“While the consultants do not feel strongly about the name of the centralized office in support of graduate education; they do feel strongly that there should be one. At most institutions this central office in support of graduate education is referred to as the ‘Graduate School’.”

Graduate Dean
“In institutions where much of the responsibility for graduate education is decentralized, it is very important that the person in charge of OGE have excellent collegial relationships with the deans. At many institutions, a strong tie between OGE and collegiate deans is facilitated by appointing the head of OGE as a dean. The consultants recommend this change be implemented at UW.”

What a new Graduate School Should Not Be

• Should not duplicate services best provided by other units.

• Should not amass resources.

• Should not be siloed.

What a new Graduate School Should Be

• As the centralized support and leadership for graduate education, it should provide key services.

• Should provide resources in alignment with need and strategic vision.

• Should be a hub of collaboration that fosters scholarship and interdisciplinarity.

• Should promote and elevate the centrality of graduate education in UW’s Mission.
The New Graduate School, Est. September 1, 2022

2015

2017-2018

2018

2022

Office of Graduate Education

School of Graduate Education

The New Graduate School

Office of Graduate Education
Centralized Admin. Support
Sufficient Staffing and Staffing in Crucial Areas

Already Had
Leadership Vision
Graduate Council
Dedicated Faculty
Great Partners

Name Changes
“Office” to “School”
“Vice Provost” to “Vice Provost & Dean”

What We Are Adding
Graduate Faculty
Graduate Student Council
Great (Formal) Partners

So, how much did it cost?
-$300,386 for FY23

We stood up the graduate school even with a FY23 3% cut!
The New Graduate School
Organization & Connections
The School of Graduate Education

Current Context

- Expansion of services & scope
  - Policy & Procedure Standardization
  - Data Analytics to Support Student Success, Wellbeing & Funding
  - Marketing & Communications
  - Support for Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs
  - Support for DEI Efforts in Graduate Education
  - Professional Development for Graduate Students

- Graduate School Foundations
  - By-Laws (Graduate Faculty, Graduate Student Council)
  - Centralized Support, Buttressing Quality & Rigor
  - Serving Students, Faculty, & Staff

Where We Are

Central Grad. Ed. Admin. + Staff

- Colorado State U
- U of Montana
- Montana State U
- U of Oklahoma
- Uni of Maine
- Utah State
- U of RI
- NMSU
- U of ID
- SDSU
- University of Wyoming

How Re-Centralizing Has Made an Impact

Marketing & Enrollments

- Graduate Recruitment Initiative
- Admissions Collaborations

Fall 2022
2255
Highest Grad Enrollment in a Decade

Fall 2022
1308
Highest Master’s Enrollment Since 2014

Fall 2021
649
Highest PhD Enrollment Ever

Fall 2022
+26.9%
Distance Enrollments vs. 2018

UW Graduate Enrollment

Graduate, only. Excludes Law, Pharmacy, WWAMI, & Professional Development Students
How Re-Centralizing Has Made an Impact

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

- URDM Recruitment Initiative
- WGE Recruitment Initiative
- Partnership with UW ODEI
  - Diverse Graduate Student Mentorship Coalition
  - URDM Mentor Training
  - Inclusion & Global Leadership Program

URDM Graduate Enrollments

- Fall 2022: URDM vs. 2018, +44.1%
# How Re-Centralizing Has Made an Impact

## Graduate Student Funding
- Implemented policies governing GAs, fellowships
  - Improved transparency and equity
  - GA hiring & eligibility checks
- Improved GTA budget spending
  - \(\approx 700k\) unspent at end of FY17 vs. \(< 200k\) in FY22
  - Full review of GTA allocations
- Partnerships with Student Financial Aid and UW Foundation
  - Improved processes
  - Oversight and support of graduate fundraising
- Secured and implemented new funding
  - Barkhurst Writing Fellowships
  - Energy Science Fellowships
  - URDM & WGE Initiatives

## Policies, Processes, & Partnerships
- Graduate Admissions Oversight
- Academic Progress
  - Oversight of graduate registrar functions
  - Electronic forms
  - Steps to degree analysis & reporting
- Partnerships with other UW units to promote:
  - Established Student Ombuds
  - Recruitment & support for international students
  - Student professional development
  - Student mental health
  - Resolution of student challenges
  - Graduate Assessment