Graduate Education in Florida: Issues and Perspectives

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Framework

• Florida Board of Governors
  – Mission: To mobilize resources and diverse constituencies to govern and advance the State University System of Florida
    • 12 state universities

• Bigger picture (CGS 2016 Pressing Issues Survey)
  – Recruiting graduate students
  – Securing funds for stipends and research
  – Securing funds for the Graduate School itself
  – Promoting diversity and inclusion
Graduate Education in Florida
SUS Enrollment
Graduate Students - Non Florida

- FAMU
- FAU
- FGCU
- FIU
- FSU
- UCF
- UNF
- USF
- UF
- UWF

The graph shows the number of graduate students for various universities from 2005 to 2014.
Part Time Graduate Students - Percent

Full Time Graduate Students - Percent

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY - THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
Board of Governors
and Graduate Education
BOG - Values

• To support and advocate for high-quality teaching, research and public service, we are committed to:
  – creativity, discovery and innovation
  – student access, learning and success in the global community and marketplace
  – collaboration, respect and appreciation of diversity
  – transparency, shared responsibility and continuous improvement
BOG – Research Expectations

• The Board expects state university research endeavors to be directly applicable to Florida’s most critical challenges and to more directly lead to commercialization, jobs, and new businesses, with a stronger linkage to local, regional, and state economic development entities.
BOG – Service Expectations

• A critical component of the State University System’s tripartite mission is public service and the commitment of state universities to reach out and engage with Florida’s communities and businesses. Community engagement focuses on the collaboration between universities and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.
BOG – Pre-eminence and Emerging

• HB 7029 revises the preeminence standards
• 12 metrics (11 of 12)
  – Four hundred or more doctoral degrees awarded annually, including professional doctoral degrees awarded in medical and health care disciplines, as reported in the Board of Governors Annual Accountability Report.
  – Emerging (6 of 12)
BOG – Performance Indicators

• Scholarship, research, innovation areas
  – Graduate students are generally not mentioned
• Graduate degrees in areas of strategic emphasis
BOG – Degree Expectations

• 35,000 graduate degrees annually
• 20,000 graduate degrees in programs of strategic emphasis (STEM, health, education, Global, and Gap Analysis)
• Degrees in STEM and Health
National issues

• Preparing students for academic and non-academic careers
  – Understanding career pathways
• Responding to workforce needs through innovative master’s programs
• Keeping programs relevant
• Providing competitive financial support packages and reducing loan debt
Future of the Dissertation

- The dissertation is just one of the requirements of the PhD. (questions from CGS press release)
  - What is a dissertation? What is its purpose? Who are its audiences?
  - What skills are or should be gained as a result of writing a dissertation?
  - What new dissertation formats should be considered?
  - How should dissertation research be archived, accessed, and disseminated?
  - What is the role of the dissertation in the employment marketplace?
Deans as Advocates

• Advocate on our campuses for the importance of graduate education;
  – emphasize the contributions of graduate students to the research and teaching mission of our institutions
  – State metrics, Top 25 goals focus on undergraduates
Questions

Discussion