President’s Taskforce for Graduate Education

MINUTES
Veazey Hall Room 2001C
November 29, 2010

Present: Dr. Charles Patterson, COGS and VP for Research; Dr. Jonathan Harwell, Library; Dr. Kari

Absent: Dr. Curtis Ricker, CLASS

Opening Comments by President Keel

- Dr. Keel welcomed and thanked the members of the Taskforce for participating. Stated the University is moving into a “strategic visioning” phase where they will come up with a passion statement which will tie into the development of a capital campaign. The Strategic visioning will have 4 general themes:
  1. Research and Creativity – this area is where graduate education is an important focus
  2. Outstanding academic mission – also makes an impact on graduate education as the university wants to see faculty achieve success in their research and endeavors as well as focusing on updating curriculum
  3. Student Success
  4. Fiscal Sustainability

All themes involve graduate students in many ways. It is well known that graduate education has not been paid attention to. The university needs to grow graduate education and it will rely on the taskforce for Graduate Education to provide feedback and direction. Deans have not put enough interest in graduate education in the areas of recruitment and the university would like to see more active involvement from the deans to provide more strategic ideas on recruitment and enrollment. Funding will have to increase in the strategic areas needed as well.

The goal of the taskforce will be to find ways to be more strategic in growing graduate education by specifically taking advantage of the geography and industry surrounding the university and propose programs and areas for growth unique to our location.

The taskforce for Graduate Education is charged with developing and recommending action plans to grow graduate enrollment to 14% up to 20%; identifying organizational infrastructures and Institutional resources required to support and increase graduate enrollments; and establishing the necessary mechanisms for enrollment management, financial management, course management, and student services that result in high quality, high integrity graduate programs and graduate student services.

The Taskforce is charged with the following tasks:
1. Develop a comprehensive evaluation of current ad projected graduate programs for growth potential. – the taskforce should evaluate where resources are used, think about new programs and evaluate current programs
2. Enhance the college of graduate studies through restructuring and revitalization efforts
3. Implement a comprehensive model of enrollment management for graduate education – the taskforce should focus on both online and traditional enrollments. Think about the direction the taskforce wants the university to go and don’t focus on the lack of resources, in addition to this direction include what you need to do the job effectively.

- The floor was opened up for questions
- Dr. Vives stated that Task 1 is very similar to the charge for another committee on campus, the committee for curriculum review, should this taskforce be working with them or independently? President Keel suggested that the two should not be tethered or completely independent. The
focus of that committee is also mainly undergraduate curricula however, it would be beneficial to have some interaction with them.
• No further questions were presented; Dr. Keel handed the meeting over to Dr. Patterson and left the meeting.

I. Discussion of Ongoing Graduate Initiatives

• Dr. Patterson thanked everyone for being part of the taskforce and thanked Dr. Vives for chairing the taskforce. In his role as dean he has been very inward focused on the office of the College of Graduate studies making sure to focus on serving the campus more efficiently. During the last year COGS has pursued several initiatives with success:
  1. COGS has held Graduate stakeholder meetings with all the colleges
  2. Program Director’s meetings
  3. Developed a new Graduate Program Director handbook
  4. Increased funding for Graduate Student Professional Development Funds
  5. Held a new graduate student orientation that was well attended by 80 to 100 new graduate students.
  6. COGS has joined with graduate admissions on many of these initiatives, however the ultimate goal to bring graduate admissions together with COGS will not be complete until resources and space are identified.

• Current graduate initiatives include:
  1. Implementation of Degreeworks which is moving very smoothly and the university hopes to have a working model in the Spring which will be rolled out to program directors
  2. There will be a separate Graduate commencement program beginning in Spring 2011
  3. Develop a new GA/TA/RA model
  4. Work to revise the GA hiring process
  5. COGS and Research has hired a new Electronic Research Administrator to assist with IT and Web development including new websites for Graduate Admissions and COGS
  6. Work with SACS
  7. Work to replace Mary Pasacarella in Graduate Admissions as today is her last day
  8. Graduate faculty Database is around 700+ members and COGS is working to streamline the maintenance of updating the list of members
  9. GRE Score system is changing and COGS will roll out further information on the new scoring scale.
  10. Developing a separate graduate catalog for 2012
  11. Continue to work with the Graduate Student Organization and build culture of graduate education through:
      a. Social events
      b. Coffee and donuts with Students and Graduate Faculty
      c. Expand and create a more robust GSO with a formal organizational structure
      d. Increase research grants and conference travel opportunities

II. Review of the Charge, Discussion of Expectations, Goals and Outcomes, Requests for Information, Peer and Aspirant Data

• Dr. Vives opened a discussion regarding Timeline for completing the charge. Dr. Patterson confirmed there isn’t a specific timeline to complete, however the taskforce should work to compile a report for the president and complete that report as early as 3 months of the new provost arriving (July) to no later than the first of Fall 2011 semester.

• There was a discussion about if this report should be presented to Faculty Senate prior to the president as The Core Curriculum committee presents to the faculty Senate. It was stated it should be sufficient to provide the Faculty Senate the opportunity to review our report to faculty senate and that the charge should be put on the agenda for the next Faculty Senate meeting.

• Dr. Shumaker suggested the committee consider how they should approach the charge. Specifically, should it be addressed task by task or all at the same time as all the tasks seem codependent.
• It was brought up that Dr. Keel suggested he is data driven and it is important that the committee include data. It was asked who the requests for data should be directed to. Dr. Patterson stated that it depends on the data needed. He suggested that requests be submitted to him and he can relay them to Jayne Perkins-Brown.

• It was agreed that the Charge be submitted to Deans Council at the next meeting.

• Dr. Thomas asked what the particular expectations were specifically related to Task 1 under the 1st goal: “Examine the growth potential of existing programs through assessment and program review.” It was asked if the taskforce should be looking at graduate programs, what depth of program review they need to do, and would this be duplication of efforts by the taskforce and the other committee. Dr. Vives stated he would check with the chair of the program review taskforce and confirm the approach they take.

• Dr. Hodnicki suggested that some programs could be expanded if there were more faculty. The DNP program for example is competing with the industry and if salaries were higher they could hire more faculty members. Dr. Patterson said this is the type of assessment he wants to do. Have an overview of what the needs are and what could make it better as well as review what programs may need to be collapsed. He stated that the taskforce would need to report out about each college and what is needed. This report should include data supporting the findings prior to providing it to the provost and president. Dr. Thomas suggested that the current programs/colleges may have this type of information already Dr. Vives suggested using the summaries of the strategic plans. Dr. Zerwas confirmed he could provide the content analysis for all the strategic planning meetings.

• The group discussed a way to stay connected and share documents. It was agreed that a Sharepoint site would be an easy way to share information in a centralized place rather than through Google. Dr. Patterson suggested all the data needed be gathered first prior to moving forward.

• Dr. Shumaker suggested that when evaluating regional needs that the taskforce meet with someone from COBA to review their economic development plan. She also suggested focusing on Agriculture as a new program as it is a large industry in this area. Dr. Patterson mentioned that Terry England the chair for agricultural and consumer affairs will visit campus in the future and it would be beneficial to have him do a presentation for the taskforce. Dr. Shumaker suggested also contacting the UGA College of Agriculture representatives that are currently on campus for more information. Dr. Hodnicki wanted to also include the healthcare sector as an area for development with the new legislation impacting that profession. Dr. Thomas confirmed Education as well would be an area for growth as there is a statewide initiative to double the amount of teachers.

• Dr. Harwell offered the resources of the library to provide statistics by program.

III. Wrap up and Scheduling of Next Meeting
• Dr. Vives asked the taskforce to be compiling a list of opportunities and threats over the next two weeks by college.

• Dr. Hodnicki suggested the taskforce review models from other institutions. Dr. Patterson stated he would be attending a CGS conference and planned to bring back information as many institutions present and provide resources.

• It was discussed to hold focus groups with a diverse sample of students including international, online, traditional and non traditional.

• It was decided to meet early in the week after commencement. Tentatively a meeting was set for Monday, December 13, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.