

April 9, 2010

Dear UO Academic Deans, Department Heads, and Faculty involved in Graduate Education:

The Graduate School Advisory Board believes that the results of the Graduate Student Experience Survey are a valuable source of information about graduate education and graduate programs at the University of Oregon. We understand that every college and department is unique and that each will develop its own process for discussion of and response to the survey. We do, however, believe that all programs would benefit from sharing the survey results *with* graduate students and by using this information as an opportunity to seek out student input. Consideration of the survey results with the graduate students can lead to a shared effort amongst faculty and students in building on strengths and addressing identified weaknesses to improve the overall quality of graduate student education at the University of Oregon.

Almost two thousand students, including students from every graduate program in the university, responded to the survey, and that group was a representative sample of the graduate student body. As we begin to examine the results of the survey it is clear there are many lessons to be learned both at the level of individual programs and, more broadly, as an institution. We hope that academic units will constitute themselves as responsive communities working across student, staff and faculty lines to improve graduate education programs, policies and practices in ways that will ultimately strengthen the graduate education and research mission of this university. And, we are ready to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

The 2009-10 Graduate School Advisory Board

Divya Bheda (Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership), Christine Chan (English), Shih Han Chiu (Conflict Resolution), Dana Cohen (Special Education), Erin Cooper (Biology), Haidee Copeland (Special Education), Baofeng Dong (International Studies), Natalie Endrulat (School Psychology), Eric Gaus (Economics), Frani Geiger (Theatre Arts), Brandon Hern (Management), Therese Hurley (Music), Jake LaManna (Architecture), Elizabeth Lostetter (International Studies), Leslie McLees (Geography), Stephen Rust (English), Stephanie Scafa (Community and Regional Planning), Matthew Schweizer (History), Kirstin Simon-Yingling (Arts Administration), JP Sleeper (Public Administration), Katrina Sturm (Counseling and Family Therapy), Deniz Tahiroglu (Psychology), and Shangrila Joshi Wynn (Environmental Studies/Geography)