Summary of Decisions – Graduate Programs – MAY 2017

Graduate program and course issues are addressed throughout the academic year as needed. Our primary assessment exercise occurs during a one-day faculty in-service Planning and Assessment Workshop held at the end of the school year. This workshop was held 8 May 2017, 8:30a – 3:00p

Information used to support planning at the meeting:

IDEA surveys for individual courses and department summary
Enrollment, graduation, and placement for WATS graduate students: 2005-2017
Review of graduate student performance in qualifying exams, thesis and dissertation defenses, and the annual Graduate Student Research Symposium

1. Graduate Programs in Ecosystem Restoration

Considerable discussion was held regarding options for offering a graduate certificate or degree in Ecosystem Restoration. There is interest in a graduate certificate that might be earned through coursework by students getting a research MS or PhD. There is a possibility for offering a Plan C (professional practice) MS. There are a range of challenges that need to be addressed:

(i) Is this a department or college program?
(ii) How does such a program mesh with existing workshops and extension programs?

ACTION

(i) A committee of Joe Wheaton, Karin Kettenring, and Peter Wilcock will hold discussions with other departments and with extension to explore possibilities.
(ii) Karin Kettenring and Peter Wilcock will develop an R401 proposal for a graduate certificate in restoration for matriculated research students.

2. Graduate Student Mental Health

We received an in-depth presentation of challenges facing graduate students and the resources offered by USU CAPS, Student Services, Disability Office.

ACTION

Beginning with the incoming 2017 cohort induction class, we will collectively work to destigmatize mental and emotional health challenges and direct students to seek assistance when needed.

Submitted by

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