

# Five-Year Program Review

## Graduate Studies in Education

### Faculty Response

#### Recommendations

##### *Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment*

“It would be beneficial for the GSE’s Policy Committee to conduct an annual review of randomly selected projects/portfolios across the program for quality assurance, especially as it continues to grow substantially.”

While GSE has a standardized rubric and there are three committee members to ensure adherence to the standard for quality projects/portfolios, we agree that an annual review of randomly selected projects/portfolios would strengthen quality assurance. This will be coordinated through the GSE Policy Committee, which will involve faculty within the three departments participating in the GSE program.

##### *Academic Advising*

“We recommend a more standardized advising process so that all students have a similar quality and opportunity for advising. Although students have adequate advising opportunities, faculty and students suggested that a dedicated academic advisor would be helpful to lessen the load on the graduate director, administrative assistant, and thesis advisors. This may not be possible with current financial conditions, but if the program grows significantly, dividing the advising workload should be a high priority.”

Program faculty agree with this recommendation. Given the current budget situation, it is unlikely that we can add an advisor position. However, we will ask emphasis leads to take on advising. Faculty advising is being used across campus and is great for retention in that it allows for connection between faculty and students. In addition, we will work with undergraduate academic advisors within the college to ensure a more in-depth knowledge of our GSE program to continue the feed from undergrad into grad.

##### *Faculty*

“We recommend implementing regular teaching observations and evaluations by peers and supervisors to further cultivate communities of teaching practice within the GSE.”

Peer reviews that occur within the promotion, tenure, and post-tenure process already include graduate courses if taught by faculty; however, we agree that using these existing reviews in a more formal way would strengthen the quality assurance of the program. Additionally, we will implement a peer review process for adjuncts, requiring one every other year. This will be submitted to the GSE Director with reflections on course evaluations. Reflections are already part of a process of review for all adjuncts.

#### Recommendations Based on Prior Reviews

“We encourage the GSE to *continue* (emphasis added) to distribute this data so that all of the various stakeholders can make informed decisions.”

Program faculty agree with this recommendation. The GSE director will present program data at PLC meetings for adjuncts and at regular department meetings annually. Faculty also encouraged the director to regularly attend department meetings.

“We recommend making continuous efforts to further achieve demographic diversity in the GSE.”

Hiring of department faculty is not necessarily something that is within the control of GSE. However, faculty agree that we can make improvements concerning the demographic diversity of adjunct faculty.

“Although it appears that some progress has been made in addressing this concern [faculty workload pertaining to chairing committees], more thought could be put toward ensuring that some faculty members do not become overloaded with service commitments.”

Students receive recommendations from the GSE director and project proposal instructor for graduate committee chair. Faculty are then approached by the student and have the option to decline. GSE faculty agree that a balance of workload for committee chairs is necessary. Ideas to address this are (1) discussions within department meetings to communicate the workload of faculty members; (2) continuation of the “How to be a Chair” training to encourage more faculty to participate as chairs; (3) distribution of existing resources to support chairs including templates, checklists, and links to training recordings.