

## FRAC Meeting Notes

Friday, March 23, 2007

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

611 Allen Hall

Handouts were given to all members present.

Areas to be discussed:

1. Need to aggressively increase our doctoral enrollments across the board - research initiatives and funding from the Office of Research need to be tied to doctoral student advising.
2. MSU needs to develop an effective awards recognition program.
3. MSU needs to continue to build on our research strengths in the life sciences and engineering, with significant opportunities for growth in the sciences and mathematics.

Comments from Committee Members

- # of faculty - # of faculty is the reason why we don't graduate as many PhD's.
- There is a problem with getting the information concerning how many actual faculty members the college has.
- We need a larger amount of research dollars to increase the number of PhD students.
- We need PhD students in R.A. slots. We also need incentives to get them into those slots, but not sure what the incentives might be.
- A lot of students work is presentation, but it might help if it was publications.
- Graduate students are time expensive. Do we have a lot of students that don't graduate? Maybe we have large number that just don't finish. Are these specific to certain areas?  
Response: Will find out and see if the departments that graduate the most students can give us advice.
- Students look at how long it takes to finish their PhD program. At MSU it takes 5 years, at Auburn it only takes 3.
- If dollars that are left this year could be put into graduate student salaries for next year that would be great. Can we find out if/how that can be done?
- Is it in our best interest to be rewarded for having a high number of graduate students or getting them finished?
- New faculty members need to have students and tools when they get here.
- We need a different culture for research (i.e. – better seminars, speakers, etc.)
- We need to have more incentives for PhD students than for master's students.
- Department Heads don't always hire faculty for research capabilities but for their need of teachers.
- We are working on Faculty Development for all colleges. The same thing could be done for graduate students.
- Could we do a boot camp for Stats?
- English T.A.'s are very helpful for international students in departments.
- Need to get dissertations more streamlined. We could require publications or could make it have to be submitted as a grant.
- We might want to create dissertation advice, topics, etc. and send it out.

Topic #2 needs to be thought about to be discussed at next meeting. We need to increase the number of faculty receiving awards outside of MSU.