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MEMO

From: P. Peluso, Assistant Professor and Doctoral Program Coordinator
To: Irene H. Johnson, Professor and Chair
Date: April 2, 2009
RE: Report of Doctoral Student Survey
CC: CE Faculty

Dear Dr. Johnson,

Pursuant to the Doctoral Student Evaluation Plan, I have conducted an anonymous survey of the Doctoral Students this past Spring using the survey instrument passed by the Doctoral Program Committee. We had an over 60% response rate from our pool of doctoral students (n=10), which gives a sufficient number of current doctoral students to draw meaningful conclusions for this survey.

Overall Observations-

It would seem that, given the responses to this survey, that the doctoral students are feeling that the program is sufficiently meeting their needs. Most responses were either "Well" or "Exceptionally Well" to each of the questions asked. However, there were some students who indicated that in several areas their needs were being met "Somewhat Well." These may indicate areas where improvements could be made.

Individual Item Responses-

1. Please rate how well the doctoral program coursework is meeting your needs in training you to be a leader in the counseling field.

Sixty per-cent of students rated their coursework as meeting their needs as "Exceptionally Well," 30% rated it as "Well," and 10% rated it as "Somewhat Well."

2. Please rate how well your research group is meeting your needs in training you to be a leader in the counseling field.

Forty per-cent of students rated their research group as meeting their needs as "Exceptionally Well," 50% rated it as "Well," and 10% rated it as "Somewhat Well."

3. Please rate how well your doctoral committee is meeting your needs in training you to be a leader in the counseling field.

Thirty per-cent of students rated their doctoral committee as meeting their needs as “Exceptionally Well,” 50% rated it as “Well,” and 20% rated it as “Somewhat Well.”

4. Please rate how well your Practicum or Internship experience is meeting/has met your needs in training you to be a leader in the counseling field.

Forty per-cent of students rated their Practicum and Internship as meeting their needs as “Well” and 60% rated it as “Exceptionally Well.”

5. Please rate how well other doctoral activities is meeting your needs in training you to be a leader in the counseling field.

Forty per-cent of students rated other doctoral activities as meeting their needs as “Well” and 60% rated it as “Exceptionally Well.”

Note: None of the students chose to give any written feedback, despite the space available.

Preliminary Conclusions

It would seem that there are some areas that the Doctoral Program Committee may want to look into further. These preliminary conclusions should be taken with some caution, however, as they reflect my observations over the last two semesters since there were no students who elaborated on surveys.

- Specifically, students have indicated that some of the coursework is not meeting their needs. The faculty has recently voted to revise the course rotation, following feedback that the students have given to the faculty recently.
- Another area worth looking into is the research groups. This is something that we have struggled with, particularly this semester. Participation in the research group meetings is optional, and attendance has been sporadic. In discussion with other faculty, perhaps if these meetings were mandatory (i.e., as part of a seminar course) then students might find more use out of them.
- The final area of concern is the number of students who feel that their doctoral committees are only somewhat meeting their needs. I can only speculate that the changes in personnel this year has created some shifting of committee memberships for students. In particular, Dr. Miranda’s departure left many students without a chair, and has left the program with only 3 faculty members who are eligible to chair. There are three faculty members who either are, or

shortly will be, eligible to chair committees, and should provide some stability and leadership for students.

I will distribute this for faculty consideration, and programmatic discussion at our next Doctoral Program Committee meeting.