QEP Committee Minutes

Friday, February 17, 2023

3:15 p.m.

Members Present: Piers Rawling (Chair), Philosophy; Ashley Bush, Business; Jorge Galeano Cabral, Engineering; Stephen Tripodi, Social Work; Maxine Jones, History; Cathy Levenson, Biomedical Sciences; Dawn Carr, Sociology; Jim Whyte, Nursing; Gale Etschmaier, Libraries; Jorge Piekarewicz, Physics; Mark Riley; Graduate School; Sindy Chapa, Communication; Casey Dozier, Career Center; Michelle Rambo-Roddenberry, Engineering; Beth Hodges, Research; Athanasios Vouzas, Biological Science; Justin Kennemur, Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Members Excused: Toby Park-Gaghan, Education Policy; Latika Young, Undergraduate Studies; Jayne Standley, Music.

Staff Present: Monoka Venters, Provost's Office; Charlotte Nafe, Provost's Office; Leslie Richardson, Center for Teaching and Advancement; Galiya Tabulda, Provost's Office; Sara Hamon, Provost's Office; James Hunt, Institutional Research; Tim Logan, Arts and Sciences; Devin Soper, Libraries.

The Chair convened the meeting and indicated items that would comprise the agenda: a presentation on doctoral completion and milestone data, a discussion on the presented information, and steps moving forward. The Doctoral Milestone Data dashboard was presented to the committee and members were asked not to publish the dashboard or share with individuals outside the committee due to the sensitive nature of the information. The purpose of this dashboard is to look for barriers to completion of PhD programs. The data does not include dropout rates or identify specific student challenges. The data is separated into sets: matriculation to candidacy, candidacy to PhD completion, and matriculation to graduation.

James Hunt reported that the graduate student satisfaction survey has received 1,044 responses or an exceptional 44% thus far. He reported that the survey will be closed next week. It was also reported that James Hunt and Sara Hamon have been working on a faculty/staff survey that will be distributed next week. The survey subcommittee will analyze data collected from these surveys and report back to the QEP committee.

Members then looked at the Doctoral Milestone Data dashboard. It was explained that the data was gathered using Student Central, includes data starting in 2012, and groups students by their admit year for the doctoral program. However, it should be noted that there are a variety of admission patterns among FSU programs. Specifically, some students enter with a bachelor's degree stop and after earning a master's degree, others earn an in-flight master's degree but continue to earn a doctoral degree, and others enter with the master's and earn only the doctoral degree.

The data categorizes disciplines by the following broad fields: Business, Education, Fine Arts, Health, Humanities, Science, and Social Science. These broad fields are used in other areas of institutional research and are subject to change if the need arises.

The committee discussed whether there needs to be a clear definition of what qualifies as a full-time doctoral student versus a part-time doctoral student. The committee intends to look at what an average

course load is and cautiously interpret the meaning of the data. There was a discussion of the need to figure out how this data could be used to help develop goals for the QEP.

Members expressed their cautious optimism as they have not seen other institutions delve into this type of data and the prospect is extremely exciting. They hope to perfect types of analyses with questions that come from dashboard. The dashboard can filter by the demographics of sex, race, field of study, still enrolled, and entered with masters. The committee agreed that Covid may have influenced certain cohorts and department chairs should look at their college with the aggregate of their overall field to compare their progress (for instance, the milestone data for chemistry could be compared with the milestone data for sciences).

Members expressed their desire to compare data with other schools, but its existence is unknown, and it is understandable why they would keep the data private. Possible data from the University of Chicago from 2017 was shared with the committee. Some members hope to look at milestone data at a national level as it could be influential. It was affirmed that the point of the QEP is to look at "ugly numbers" for improvement, although current numbers do not look that bad.

The committee chair encouraged contact with the Council of Graduate Schools to see if they have comparison numbers to help the committee, as it is believed they collected data 2004-2007 on graduation rates. However, they may not have collected any data on other milestones. Departments may miss where interventions could be highly influential when all that is observed is graduation rates. An advising/milestone tracking dashboard or app would be great for students and faculty to see when interventions are important. Chair Rawling confirmed that he is trying to set up a demonstration of GradPhile with Tom Houpt.

Seeing that candidacy is really the only marker currently for a midpoint, an attribute such as undergraduate mapping could be used for doctoral students. Currently, there is no university-wide marker to make sure students are on track as this happens per department, but something like GradPhile could help on the institutional level through a database.

Inconsistency across programs appeared in the interpretation of the data and a first-year review could be an important milestone for constructive feedback and a system for easy progress processing should be implemented. Such a system could indicate which students need support and which should not move forward within the program, currently this is kept track of at the department level. Members shared their opinion that it would be a large amount of work without much reward to obtain data from various places and the data would not be comparable. The committee agreed that the milestone dashboard is a great first step.

The committee was informed that the data set for the Survey of Earned Doctorates for FSU graduates since 1958 has been obtained. Dawn Carr and IR are working on analyses to provide a more meaningful summary for committee members. One reminder is that the Survey of Earned Doctorates is only for students who complete while the milestone data allows examination of students who do not complete.

The Chair said he will be in touch with the subcommittees. The Survey subcommittee will move on to analyzing data resulting from their instruments and the Data subcommittee will dive into the milestone and other data provided by IR and outside entities. . He also told the subcommittees on Initiatives and Budget that they will receive their duties later in this process.

It was clarified that all future meetings are at 3:15 p.m. in the Westcott 201 conference room. The Chair thanked everyone for attending, informed the committee that the next meeting would be on March 3rd in Westcott 201, and, upon motion of the Chair, the Committee adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Handouts:

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