Message from the Dean

UGS has recently compiled data on international enrollments, which revealed important trends. Our data suggests that the number of applications we receive from Mexico and Brazil is much smaller than it is at our peer institutions. An effective way to increase the number of applications from these countries is to follow the leads from graduate faculty who have already established research collaborations with universities from these countries.

The number of applications we receive from China and India is high — just as it is at other universities of our size; however, our data suggests that we are not as successful in attracting admitted students to join FIU. Thus, we could use extra efforts to increase yield from these two countries without necessarily increasing the number of applications. An effective way to increase yield from these two countries is to promote the specific doctoral programs relying on these students and design exclusive recruitment strategies and incentives.

During 2012–13, UGS is planning to undertake visits to these four countries – Mexico, Brazil, India, and China – with the specific goals outlined above. I invite interested programs and graduate faculty to become partners with UGS as we begin planning these visits.

Thank you,

News

University Graduate School Open House

UGS is holding its annual Open House on Saturday, November 10th from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Graham Center Ballrooms. This year we are changing the program to include both prospective students and spring 2013 admitted students. This major recruitment event is a great opportunity to showcase your program while connecting with interested prospective students and students recently admitted to FIU.

To reserve a table for the Information Fair and a spot on the Breakout Sessions program, please go to https://crm.orionondemand.com/crm/forms/0En70tKB003MOX670c5o. The deadline to RSVP is Friday, October 12th. For more information, please contact Ana Rosado at arosado@fiu.edu.

2012 McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

The Florida Education Fund’s McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program is designed to increase the pool of candidates qualified with Ph.D. degrees to teach at the college and university levels.

The McKnight Fellowship is a great funding opportunity for talented undergraduate seniors and master’s degree students who plan to pursue a Ph.D. This five-year fellowship includes a $12,500 stipend plus a $10,000 UGS enhancement per year for the first three years, followed by a graduate assistantship for years 4 and 5. Recipients also receive a tuition waiver and health insurance. Any questions regarding the application process can be directed to Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter (smontash@fiu.edu). Students apply online at www.tefonline.org/mfapply and all applications and materials must be submitted/postmarked no later than January 15, 2012. Applicants must be admitted to their academic program before the annual selection meeting in early March.

Doctoral Initiative on Minority Attrition and Completion

Florida International University has been selected to partner with the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) in implementing the Doctoral Initiative on Minority Attrition and Completion (DIMAC). The study is intended to create a portrait of completion and attrition among underrepresented minority doctoral students (defined as U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic/Latino/Latina) enrolled in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The study is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation’s Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professorate (AGEP) program (NSF grant # 1138814). The study will collect student-level data, conduct focus groups with underrepresented minority doctoral students enrolled in STEM fields, and perform group interviews with faculty, administrators, and other officials to better understand what interventions and factors lead to successful completion among underrepresented minority doctoral students.

Programs have recently received an email regarding the first phase of the data collection on best practices, policies, and interventions currently in place in your units. Please make sure that the template is completed and returned to Sonja Montas-Hunter at smontash@fiu.edu by Monday, October 22, 2012.