

ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE FACULTY SENATE

FROM

THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE: 2006 - 2007

The School of Graduate Studies reports that graduate student enrollments for the 2006-2007 academic year saw record highs in both total enrollment at 3,848 and in doctoral enrollment specifically, with an increase from 623 to 637 students. The number of masters students also increased from 2,688 students in 2005-2006 to 2,892 students last year. This report will also provide information on initiatives of the Graduate School during last year and where major effort will be placed during the upcoming academic year. Primarily, we intend to continue major efforts to recruit students into USU graduate programs, generate additional support for graduate education, and continue to strive to make the Graduate School more responsive to the needs of USU's students and faculty.

We have organized this report into three sections. Part I outlines activities and achievements for 2006-2007. Part II provides general information about the mission of the Graduate School and information concerning last year's actions by the Graduate Council. Part III consists of statistics about USU's graduate education system. The appendix to this report contains tabulated data about last year's graduate students.

I. Changes, Achievements, and New Initiatives

A. Changes and Achievements for 2006-2007

There were several changes in personnel of the School of Graduate Studies. Dr. Byron Burnham was named Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School effective June 1, 2006. Dr. Shelley Lindauer was named as Associate Dean. Other staff changes included the addition of Launa Julander in June, who replaced Marie Hicks at our reception desk. Marie Hicks moved into the application processing. Derri Dee Leonard replaced Teresa Passey as the Assistant to the Dean. We are pleased to announce that we can now post degrees for graduate students within 1-2 days upon the completion of their degree requirements, rather than at the end of the semester. The priorities for the School of Graduate Studies during the 2006-07 academic year continued to focus primarily on improvement of graduate recruitment efforts, addressing financial issues of graduate students through fellowships, awards, waivers, and tuition remissions, and health insurance for Graduate Assistants.

1. Graduate Student Recruitment

Dr. Shelley Lindauer made major efforts to advance and improve graduate student recruitment during 2006-2007. For example, Dr. Lindauer organized visits to a larger number of regional and national graduate student recruitment events and involved USU faculty and graduate

students, awarded \$1,000 in funds to improve unit recruitment efforts to 20 departments, expanded regional and advertising of USU graduate programs, implemented GRE screenings to identify and acquire contact information for prospective students, and accumulated a total of over 6,000 referrals. New efforts were made to begin tracking students through the recruitment process to analyze the effectiveness of our recruitment strategy. We sponsored a one-day workshop featuring Tom Jackson, a nationally known authority on recruitment. Representatives from 26 departments attended. The Graduate School also continued to visit departments to discuss recruitment strategies and provided monetary support for departments to access recruitment training opportunities.

2. Graduate Student Funding

The Graduate School was able to continue financial support of graduate students with a variety of mechanisms, including continued fellowships available through the Inland Northwest Research Alliance (INRA), six Seely-Hinckley Scholarships, two Martin Luther King Fellowships, one Patel Fellowship, and ten dissertation fellowships (one more than last year). We provided substantial numbers of tuition waivers and remissions, and continued support for Native American students, and a fellow for the Western Historical Quarterly. Tuition awards and fellowship awards information were provided to colleges three months earlier than in previous years, allowing colleges time to recruit the very best students.

In addition to funding to support travel by graduate students presenting at professional meetings and conferences offered through the Graduate Student Senate, the Graduate School continued to offer travel funding for students to advance their scholarly efforts. We increased the amount available for student travel through help from the Vice President of Research.

3. Graduate Council Activities

Activities are described in more detail in a later section of this report.

4. Graduate Application Processing and Student Training

The School of Graduate Studies has made new advancements in electronic processing. Letters of recommendation are now being requested and received electronically. The student names his/her recommender on their online application and via our custom web application, the letter is requested and received in a much faster and efficient way than has ever been seen. We are also receiving admissions test scores (GRE, GMAT, etc.) electronically as well, which speeds up the receipt and processing. In short, with our digital filing system, we are almost entirely paperless at

the SGS. We can now process applications in just a few days, rather than weeks. We have also revamped our website to be more user-friendly and informative.

II. MISSION OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

A. Graduate Council

The Graduate Council reviews and approves the policies and regulations for graduate studies at USU and advises the dean on their application. Listed below are the Graduate Council Members who served in 2006-2007.

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Kenneth L. White	Agriculture
Glenn McEvoy	Business
Susan Crowley	Education
Marv Halling	Engineering
Richard Cutter	Science
Kelli Cargile-Cook	HASS
Eugene Schupp	Natural Resources
John Elsweiler	Library
Byron Burnham	School of Graduate Studies
Maure Smith	Graduate Student Senate President
Ben Sessions	Graduate Student Senate Vice President

1. Major Graduate Council Actions: 2006-2007

A proposed Educational Specialist Degree (EdS) in School Psychology was approved (11/08/07).

A proposal from the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation and the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education to create a Speech-Language Pathology specialization was approved (01/10/07).

A proposal from the Department of Business Information Systems to change the name of majors, minor, emphasis, and specialization from "Business Information Systems" to "Management Information Systems" was approved (01/10/07).

A proposal from the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department regarding a cooperative PhD program between Nankai University, China, and USU was approved.

2. Funding for Graduate Students

The following funds were made available for student support through the School of Graduate Studies in 2006-2007:

\$180,000	Presidential Fellowships
195,000	Research V.P. Fellowships
\$22,879	Seely-Hinckley Scholarships *
\$4,417,222	Out-of-State Tuition Waivers and Doctoral In-state Tuition Remission, and Instate Tuition Scholarships
\$4,815,101	Total

*Financial Aid academic year (fall 06, spring 07, summer 07)

3. Graduate Student Travel

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) administers funds from the School of Graduate Studies and from the Vice President for Research for travel cost for graduate students who present papers at professional meetings. Master's students are eligible for one \$300 award and doctoral students are eligible for two \$300 awards during their degree programs. Students can receive funding for USU-generated papers presented up to three months after graduation, with appropriate recognition of USU on the paper.

Of the 148 graduate students who applied for travel funds in 2006-2007, 142 actually traveled, with a total expenditure of \$42,915. There were 17 fewer awards than in 2006-2007.

III. Enrollment Information

A. Applications

The total number of applications increased from 2,726 in 2005-2006 to 2,897 in 2006-2007, an increase of 171 applications, about 7%.

B. Enrollments

Total matriculated graduate student enrollment for Fall 2006 was 3,529, nearly 15% of all USU students and a 6% increase from Fall 2005 (Table 3).

The number of master's students for 2006-07 increased by 7.6% from 1,994 to 2,892 students (Table 3). There was an increase of 14 doctoral students to a total of 637 for Fall 2006, a 2.2% increase from Fall 2005 (Table 3) and a new record high.

C. Degrees Awarded

There were 243 master's and 36 doctoral degrees posted Summer 2006, totaling 279. There were 236 master's and 25 doctoral degrees posted for Fall 2006, a total of 261. An additional 267 master's degrees, 1 post-master's degree, and 24 doctoral degrees were posted Spring 2007, a total of 292.