

REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE
THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
2010-2011

The report is organized into three sections. Part I outlines changes, activities and achievements for 2010-2011. Part II provides general information about the mission of SGS and information concerning last year's actions by the Graduate Council. Part III consists of statistics about applications, enrollments, and degrees awarded.

PART I: CHANGES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND INITIATIVES

A number of changes, achievements, and initiatives have taken place over the past year. Not all have had positive impacts on graduate education at Utah State University.

Our goal of rapidly processing applications for graduate studies was temporarily achieved this past year. However, budget cuts reduced the number of fulltime processors with the anticipated result of lengthening the time for processing applications. We plan to supplement the remaining processors with seasonal support staff.

As we enter the fourth year of the Subsidized Graduate Student Health Insurance program, we continue to improve the management of the program with FirstRisk. Approximately 78% (1,058 eligible; 191 waiving out of the insurance) of eligible graduate students are taking advantage of this benefit. Perhaps the most striking thing to report is that health insurance premiums have not increased for the fourth straight year. When the program was initiated, departments received an increase in operating budgets to cover the majority of graduate assistant insurance costs. Those funds have not been affected by the budgetary crisis. (Currently students pay \$237 or 20% of the premium and departments pay \$941 or 80% per year.)

The Graduate Intermountain Research Symposium, which is managed by the Graduate Student Senate and supported by the School of Graduate Studies, reached new heights this year with 201 presentations and poster sessions from USU graduate students, as well as students from a number of other intermountain universities. The Symposium provides a platform for our students to present findings from their research as well as receive feedback about their work and presentation abilities. We are very appreciative of the departmental support that our graduate students receive in this endeavor.

Graduate Student Recruitment

Dr. Shelley Lindauer continued to make major efforts to advance and improve graduate student recruitment during 2010-2011. For example, Dr. Lindauer organized visits to 20 regional and national graduate student recruitment events and involved USU faculty and graduate students from every college in recruiting; 21 programs received \$1,000 each to improve unit recruitment efforts, continued to expand regional advertising of USU graduate programs, and implemented GRE screenings to identify and acquire contact information for prospective students. The Graduate School also continued to visit departments to discuss recruitment strategies and provided monetary support for departments to access recruitment training opportunities. SGS has worked closely with Annalisa Purser from Public Relations and Marketing to develop a variety of recruiting publications and marketing materials.

Graduate Student Funding

The Graduate School was able to continue financial support of graduate students with a variety of mechanisms, including six Seely-Hinckley Scholarships, two Martin Luther King Fellowships, one Patel Fellowship, and seven dissertation fellowships. We also provided substantial numbers of tuition awards. We continued support for an American Indian Support Program fellow, and a fellow for the Western Historical Quarterly.

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

With some changes in residency requirements, additional funds for nonresident tuition awards became available and were distributed to departments for use in fall 2010. Due to the critical shortfall in tuition award money, summer tuition awards were restricted to students who were holding defenses or incoming/outgoing international students.

An important issue regarding tuition awards specifically and graduate student support generally, needs to be addressed by the faculty. As budgets either remain static or decrease, the ability of the School of Graduate Studies to offer tuition awards continues to be constrained. With each increase in the cost of tuition and a continuing flat budget for tuition awards, the number of awards actually decreases. The School of Graduate Studies has made several changes to policies that have allowed us to extend the number of tuition awards; however, we will soon be forced to limit even further the awards given. The following table demonstrates the decreasing number of financial awards over time. Scholarships and fellowships are becoming fewer in number, and these have not increased in the amounts awarded. In spite of combining assistantship stipends with tuition awards and subsidized health insurance, our package of financial support for graduate students continues to erode (see Table 1). The current practices for tuition awards are not sustainable. Now is the time to work with the college deans to arrive at a new distribution mechanism to place tuition awards with each college dean as a defined financial amount to be expended within the college.

Table 1: Fellowships, Scholarships, and Tuition Awards 2007-2012

Year	Presidential Fellowships	Vice-President for Research Fellowships	Resident Tuition Scholarships*	Nonresident Tuition Scholarships*	Master's Resident Tuition Awards**
06-07	15	13	49	21	238
07-08	15	11	31	16	220
08-09	15	13	31	16	200
09-10	15	11	26	13	173
10-11	15	11	32	17	183
11-12	15	11	29	15	161

*Awards are for one semester, for up to 12 credits, no graduate assistantship is required, and students are chosen competitively based upon GPA and GRE/MAT/GMAT scores.

**Awards are for one semester, and are awarded to students with graduate assistantships, for up to 9 credits.

PART II: MISSION OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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 2010-2011.

<u>College Representative</u>	<u>College</u>
Dennis Hassan	Caine College of the Arts
Paul Johnson	Agriculture
Frank Caliendo	Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
Scott DeBerard	Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
Bart Smith	Engineering
Richard Cutler	Science
Keith Grant-Davie	Humanities and Social Sciences
Eugene Schupp	Natural Resources
Glenn McEvoy	Faculty Senate
John Elswailer	Library
Byron Burnham	School of Graduate Studies
Mike Todd	Graduate Senate President

Major Graduate Council Actions

A proposal to change the policy for doctoral degree residency was approved (08-10-10).

The R401 proposal for a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine between Washington State University and Utah State University was approved (08-10-10).

[10-11 Faculty Senate Report]

The Master of Arts foreign language requirement policy was revised and approved (10-20-10).

The proposal to change ELED/SECED Education Specialist degree to Curriculum and Instruction was approved (10-20-10).

The Master of Science in Health and Human Movement proposal to add a Plan B option was approved (10-20-10).

The Master of Science in Financial Economics proposal was approved (10-20-10).

The Master of Science in Economics and Statistics proposal was approved (10-20-10).

A request for specialization modifications to the Sociology doctoral program was approved (01-12-11).

The request for a MEd in Instruction Leadership in TEAL was approved (02-09-11).

The Graduate Council selected Fall Semester 2011 as the start date to require Public Abstracts to be included in theses/dissertations (03-16-11).

The Graduate Council approved the Graduate School proposal to establish a grace semester for international students (03-16-11).

The English Department proposal to restructure the existing English Technical Writing Program (from Plan B to Plan C) was approved (04-13-11).

Tuition Awards for Graduate Students

The following amounts were made available for student support through the School of Graduate Studies in 2010-2011:

\$180,000	Presidential Fellowships (15)
165,000	Research VP Fellowships (11)
28,896	Seely-Hinckley Scholarships (6)
319,900	Master's Resident Tuition Awards
68,300	In-state Tuition Award Nominations
1,234,900	Doctoral Resident Tuition Awards
2,563,800	Nonresident Tuition Awards
380,000	Graduate HB 75
\$4,940,796	TOTAL FUNDS

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 costs for graduate students who present papers at professional meetings. Master's students are eligible for two \$300 awards and doctoral students are eligible for three \$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 168 graduate students who applied for travel funds in 2010-2011, 165 actually traveled, with a total expenditure of \$49,500.00. There were three fewer awards than in 2009-2010.

PART III: APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR FALL SEMESTER

Table 2: New Applications Fall Semester 2010

Year	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010
Applications	2,116	1,966	2,137	2,007	2,046	2,060

Enrollments

The School of Graduate Studies reports overall graduate student enrollments for the 2010-2011 academic year are slightly up compared to the previous year (3.6%). There was an increase in master's-level students (3.3%) as well as doctoral-level students (4.4%).

Table 3: Graduate Admission Headcount by Level, Fall Semester, 2006-2010

Year	Master's Enrollment			Doctoral Enrollment			Total		
	Enrollment	Change	% Change	Enrollment	Change	% Change	Enrollment	Change	% Change
2006	2,892	204	7.6	637	14	2.2	3,529	218	6.6
2007	*2,821	-71	-2.5	665	28	4.4	3,486	-43	-1.2
2008	*1,726	-1,095	-38.8	619	-46	-6.9	2,345	-1,141	-32.7
2009	1,941	215	12.5	592	-27	-4.4	2,533	188	8.0
2010	2,006	65	3.3	618	26	4.4	2,624	91	3.6

Sources: 2006-2010 Enrollment Summary Reports

* In 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 adjustments were made in the way programs within the Banner system were coded. A campus-wide enrollment management committee was organized to evaluate and correct miscoded programs. It was discovered that a large number of post-baccalaureate students registered for classes (primarily via RCDE) and were coded as "Master's Level" in the system. Actually, they were nonmatriculated students. These students were re-coded to reflect that they were not in fact in a graduate program. Data, while remaining consistent with prior data, reflect only the number of students who were enrolled in actual graduate programs.

Table 4: Fall 2010 International Graduate Admission Applications and Enrollment

Total	Fall 2010 Applications	Fall 2010 Enrollments
Non-US Citizens	622	102
Countries/Regions of Origin	Applications	Enrollments
China	155	21
India	201	26
South Korea	19	1
Middle East & Turkey	47	3
Total non-US Citizens by Field of Study	Applications	Enrollments
Arts & Humanities	39	2
Business	77	20
Education	30	1
Engineering	243	33
Life Sciences	62	19
Physical Earth Sciences (including Math & Computer Science)	143	24
Social Sciences & Psychology	15	2
Other Fields	13	1

Degrees Awarded

There were 308 master’s, 2 Educational Specialists, and 44 doctoral degrees posted summer 2010, totaling 354. In fall 2010 there were 262 master’s, 3 Educational Specialists, and 38 doctoral degrees, totaling 303. An additional 292 master’s degrees, 3 Educational Specialists, and 35 doctoral degrees were posted spring 2011, totaling 330. For the 2010-2011 academic year there was a grand total of 987 degrees awarded (see Table 5).

Table 5: Degrees Awarded by Type and Semester

Degree	2008-2009				2009-2010				2010-2011			
	Su08	Fa08	Sp09	Total	Su09	Fa09	Sp10	Total	Su10	Fa10	Sp11	Total
Master’s	254	188	250	692	254	247	334	835	308	262	292	862
Ed. Spec.	5	1	4	10	4	2	2	8	2	3	3	8
Doctoral	27	27	33	87	33	19	40	92	44	38	35	117
Total				789				935				987