GPSC survey results summary report to ABOR, February 5, 2015: University of Arizona
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GPSC Survey Results summary to Arizona Board of Regents

In 2012, GPSC adopted “data-driven” advocacy while developing its first every strategic plan “GPSC 2020.” The strategic plan created the “GPSC Institute” to conduct surveys annually. GPSC focuses on six (6) key issues captured by the phrases “FETCHES.” Fees, Tuition, Childcare, Health care, Standard of Living (workload & compensation). Below are highlights from GPSC surveys (2013-2015). Full reports can be found online at http://gpsc.arizona.edu/gpsc-institute.

2013-2014
1. Mentoring for Graduate and Professional Students
   • Overall quality of mentoring is good but there needs to be more non-academic career development. For example, Career Services focused primarily on undergraduate students looking for work.
2. Student health insurance
   • 34% of respondents indicated that they had gone without a medication a doctor has advised them take because of cost
   • 42% of respondents indicated that they had felt a significant financial burden from medical costs at some point during their graduate and professional career
3. Graduate and Professional Student Financial Life
   • Financial troubles may be slowing progress towards degree completion.

2014-2015
1. Workload Survey for Graduate Assistants
   • The average number of hours worked is approaching 1 standard deviation above the average number of hours contracted. 18 v. 24 hours
2. Childcare: Graduate and Professional Students
   • Childcare expenses averaged $3,120 per semester
   • additional childcare support would help them graduate in a timely manner
3. Childcare: VETS, Faculty, & Staff
4. Fees: Mandatory, Program, Class Fees (doctoral students)
   1. 234/286 know what university student fees are
   2. 220/286 know what class fees are
   3. 195/286 know about differential tuition
   4. 172/286 know about opt-in fees
   5. 167/286 know what program fees are
   6. 68/286 know how to opt-out of university or program fees
5. Impact of graduate studies on mental and physical health
   • University of California (UC), nearly half of graduate students said that a mental or emotional problem had interfered with their academic work in the past year.
1. White Paper: Graduate Assistant Compensation
   a. $16,388 is the average Graduate Assistant compensation (.50)
   b. $20,900 is the estimated cost of attendance according to UA Financial Aid
   c. -$4,512 is difference between compensation and costs