Background

GPSC, with the Office of Research and Assessment, were interested in student’s awareness of, and satisfaction with, the services and events that GPSC sponsors. A random sample of 3500 UA graduate and professional students were emailed with instructions to complete the survey in February of 2015; 398 students completed the survey. Responses were analyzed separately for Master (N=144) and Doctoral students (N=174).

Summary

A large subset of respondents were unaware of GPSC services and events, especially master students. A majority of respondents who applied for GPSC services, received the desired services. Open-ended questions indicated student’s desires for increased GPSC visibility, and additional didactic training on grant writing and professional development.

Recommendations

- Increase student awareness about what GPSC is, who we are, and what we do – perhaps more frequent, but smaller, events on the mall.
- Increase visibility of GPSC services, and changes to ongoing services (i.e., increase on funding limits for travel grants and research grants).

Results -- Doctoral students

- Only 14/174 respondents had never heard of GPSC travel grants, but 124/173 had never been awarded a GPSC travel grant, and 111/174 had no applied for a travel grant in the last year.
- A subset of participants (38/173) had never heard of the GPSC ReaP program, and only 12/174 had applied for a GPSC ReaP grant in the last year.
- A subset of participants (37/172) had never heard of GPSC social events. Most participants that had participated in a GPSC social event participated in GPSA week and social events (e.g., sporting events, speed dating).
- A subset of participants (38/172) had never heard of GPSC club funding.
- A large set of participants (79/169) had never heard of GPSC POD funding.
- A majority of participants (87/167) strongly agreed, or somewhat agreed with the statement “GPSC advocates for my wants and needs as a graduate/professional student”. 63/167 respondents responded that neither agreed nor disagreed (i.e., neutral) with that statement.

For open-ended questions, many respondents indicated that they were unaware of GPSC services, or what GPSC is all about, and that GPSC should increase their visibility, especially in regards to events and services. Other respondents indicated a desire for additional research and travel grants funding, and to expand the scope of the Research and Project Grant program (ReaP) to include as-of-now prohibited items. There was also interest in didactics on grant writing, professional development and job search, and various technical specialties like computer programming languages, statistics, and presentation skills. There was also interest in GPSC events and services for distance-learning students.
Results -- Masters students

- A subset of participants (55/144) reported never having heard of GPSC travel grants, and most respondents had not applied for a GPSC travel grant in the last year (78/144).
- A subset of participants (59/144) reported never having heard of GPSC ReaP grants, and most respondents had not applied for a GPSC ReaP grant in the last year (77/144).
- A subset of participants (58/140) reported never having heard of GPSC social events, and most respondents had not attended a GPSC social event in the last year (68/140).
- A subset of participants (67/139) reported never having heard of GPSC club funding, and most respondents had not applied for GPSC club funding in the last year (66/139).
- A majority of participants (84/138) reported never having heard of GPSC POD funding, and a subset had not applied for GPSC POD funding in the last year (54/138).
- Most master students were Neutral (87/135) in regard to the statement “I feel like GPSC advocates for my wants and needs as a graduate/professional student”.

For open-ended questions, many respondents indicated that they were unaware of GPSC services, or what GPSC is all about, and that GPSC should increase their visibility, especially in regards to events and services. Other respondents indicated a desire for childcare support. There was also interest in didactics on grant writing, and professional development and job search. There was also interest in GPSC events and services for distance-learning students.