Welcome to Our Newsletter!

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Dr. Timothy Mack
Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research

It is my pleasure to be
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It is my pleasure to be
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both graduate education and
research.

We will show you
data, again and again. It is
our job to show you the data
on national trends in graduate
education and research, so you
can decide for yourself how
it might or might not apply to
you.

We re-
fully do graduate programs, be-
first do graduate studies, be-

cause the School of Graduate
Studies and Research is the ad-
vocate for all graduate students
on campus. For faculty doing
research, we mean putting
faculty first. This means

scholarship support. We are
scholarship and research and
creating ways of improving
the proposal submission and
management process while

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ing both faculty and stu-
This is a conscious effort.
Thisisaconsciouseffort.

on our part to involve you
in helping us improve

Also in this issue

http://www.iup.edu/graduatestudies/

School of Graduate Studies and Research Announcements

The School of Graduate Studies and Research is pleased to announce the new Graduate Curriculum Tracking Log, available from the SGSR website located on the For Faculty and Staff page (www.iup.edu/graduatestudies/faculty). This web page, available to anyone, contains a link to a Adobe PDF document that lists all of the graduate curriculum proposals currently being reviewed within IUP's graduate curriculum approval process.

When a curriculum proposal arrives at the Dean's Associate office in the SGSR, it is recorded into the tracking log, including all of the approvals and their dates up to that point. It is important to note that the log will not reflect curriculum being reviewed prior to arriving at the Dean's Associate's office. The log then provides the reader with the location of the proposal, the date at which it arrived at that point, and its current status.

It is hoped that the tracking log will provide the IUP community with an easy way to check the progress of a proposal. There are currently 14 curriculum proposals being actively reviewed by the graduate school, the Provost, the University Wide Graduate Committee, and the Senate. The tracking log will not record the progress of curriculum after Senate approval. Once a proposal is approved by the Senate, it will be removed from the log one

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NEW COHORT

The SGSR is accepting applications for the M.S. in Nursing, Education Track program and for the M.S. in Health Services Administration program, both offered at IUP Monroeville. Spring classes begin January 19, 2009. Visit www.iup.edu/monroeville for more information.

Improving Graduate Education and Research

We are engaging both faculty and students to improve graduate education and research. New committees include:

•A

committee has been formed. This is a committee of graduate coordinators to capture the best practices that create and maintain a vibrant, well-run, successful graduate program. This might include defining and tracking program quality. Members are: Dennis Giever, Gregory Kenning, Becky Knickelbein, Joseph Kovaleski, Keith Kyler, Robert Millward, Susan Palmisano, Mark Piwinsky, Shari Robertson, and Dawn Woodland.

• A

The goals of this Board are to serve as a voice for the 49 centers and institutes of IUP and, to review and improve the procedures for creating and evaluating centers and institutes. Members are: John Benhart, Lynnane Black, Victoria Damiani, Steven Loar, Ronald Moreau, Steve Osborne, David Rhodes, Donald Robertson, and Roger White.

•A '

workgroup for developing the Academic Division's Strategic Plan. This workgroup will consider research and scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty. Areas it will examine include but are not limited to: Instruction, Grants, External Funding, Scholarly Production, and Scholarly Activity. The tentative list of members includes: Dan Lee, Lynn Botelho, Jay Mills, Krys Kaniasty, David Myers, Sean McDaniels, and Tracey Missien.

The Council of Graduate Schools recently had an article in their August/September 2009 newsletter about the for-profit institutions and their effects on graduate education. On the next page is a graph of the tremendous increase in enrollment at for-profit, online institutions over 20 years. There were 188,079 graduate students enrolled at for-profit institutions in 2007. Why did they choose to enroll in an online program?

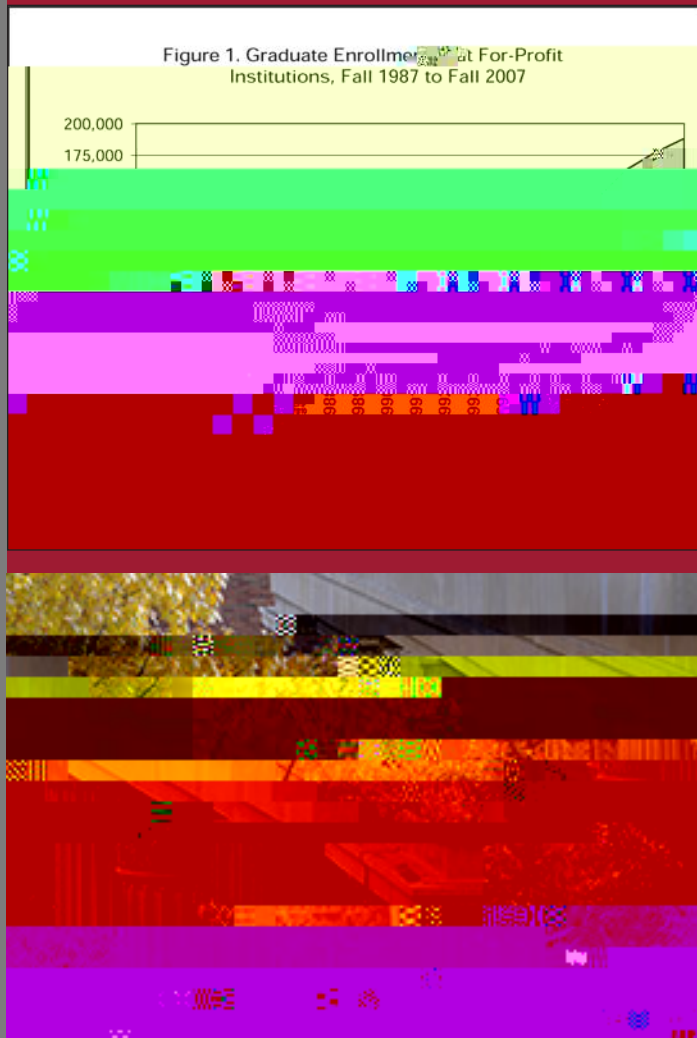The most common reasons why students choose online degree programs are:

•CONVENIENCE. Many online graduate students have a full time job, and they value flexible delivery of a program.

•EASY ACCESS. These graduate students like not having to drive to a known location at a known time to get educated. With the fluctuating costs of gaso-

Figure 1. Graduate Enrollment at For-Profit
Institutions, Fall 1987 to Fall 2007

200,000
175,000

Related Links:

Students are paying more to attend a graduate program at a for-profit institution: over $4,000 more per year. Not only that, but for-profit institutions do not offer assistantships.

Take Home Message: As your graduate dean, I can assure you that the numbers are as disturbing to me as they are to you. Some of these students could have been enrolled in our own graduate programs. What should we do about it? Graduate education today is changing. Graduate students used to be primarily in the 21-28 age bracket; now we see a wide range of students from age 22 to 70 or even older. The average person has over 10 jobs by age 38, and today's economy is forcing many to change jobs. Now more than ever, people are wishing to pursue additional education so they can leave their current job and get into a better one. These learners are older, have fulltime jobs, and cannot afford to leave them. They want flexible delivery of programs, convenience, and easy access. They are willing to pay extra for that and will enroll in such programs without an assistantship. They might prefer a Certificate of Recognition instead of an entire degree. All of us need to be aware of these changes.

What should you do about it? That depends. Some of our graduate programs are doing extremely well and 'If it ain't broke, then don't fix it." These programs can keep doing what they obviously do so well, and we should all be proud of them.

Other programs are seeing enrollment declines. For the latter, you might want to think about how you can create a program that is more attractive to students. Remember the concepts of flexibility, convenience, and easy access. A unique curriculum that is truly different from competing programs will also help.

NEW JOB RESOURCE

A new SGSR resource for job-seeking graduate students is online at www.iup.edu/graduatestudies/jobsearch . Search jobs by discipline and access moving and cost of living information.

The goal of this committee is to develop effective ways of concisely and effectively engaging with our stakeholders, specifically those related to graduate education and university-wide research. Committee members are: Steve Hovan, Steve Loar, Krish Krishnan, Phil Neusius, Mike Powers, Ben Rafoth, Tim Runge, Paula Sandusky, and Teresa Shellenbarger.

has been formed to discuss the concept of graduate "landing pages" or "lead pages" on the Web to be linked from the comprehensive program listing on the SGSR website. A "lead page" for each program provides visitors the opportunity to access similar graduate-related information on each page (e.g. program information, how to apply, tuition, assistantship information,), enabling consistency across graduate program pages and enabling more aggressive recruitment. The committee will share information about its findings to the Council of Graduate Coordinators.

GRADUATE STUDENT REGISTRATION
Registration for the spring 2010 semester and the winter session begins on Monday, November 2 at 9:00am. Please contact your advisor for your alternate PIN for spring registration, if you have not already received it.

Continuing students, remember to register for your spring coursework prior to the end of the fall semester (by December 18) to avoid late registration fee charges.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM
 Remember to update your Emergency Alert Information in the secure area of URSA to avoid a registration hold on your account.

DECEMBER GRADUATION
Congratulations to those who will be graduating in December, and those of you who graduated in August! We hope you will be attending the commencement ceremony being held at the Fisher Auditorium on December 20. Master's students who plan on attending the ceremony, don't forget to RSVP your attendance. You will find instructions to RSVP, in addition to general information about the ceremony, on the commencement website. (www.iup.edu/commencement) The School of Graduate Studies and Research office will be sending specific ceremony information to the doctoral students graduating in December and those who have graduated in August. Congratulations graduates!!!