PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY OF GRADUATE STUDENT OPINION

REPORT TO THE SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PURDUE PRESIDENTIAL SERACH

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2011-12 PGSG President
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REPORT TO THE SPECIAL ADIVOSRY COMMITTEE (SAC) FOR THE PURDUE PRESIDENTIAL SERACH

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of and in representation of the graduate students at Purdue University, I present this report to be the overall opinion of graduate students at Purdue University, West Lafayette to the best of my knowledge. Because the Purdue University Strategic Plan and Decadal Funding plan call for an increase of the graduate student population and because there are no graduate students represented on the 2011 Purdue Presidential Search Committee, I stress the importance of considering this opinion for the Special Advisory Committee's final recommendations. Graduate students are the underlying foundation of this University that continue to provide cheap, diligent labor to keep research and teaching afloat at Purdue. So although we are often overlooked, please don't discount the opinions of ~8,000 stakeholders in this most important process.

COLLECTING GRADUATE STUDENT OPINIONS

Graduate student opinions were sought by four means:

(1) A survey was sent to all graduate students (at all campuses) through the Special Advisory Committee to the Presidential Search;

(2) A survey was sent out to all graduate students (at all campuses) through Brad Krites (because of his membership as a student on the Presidential Search Committee);

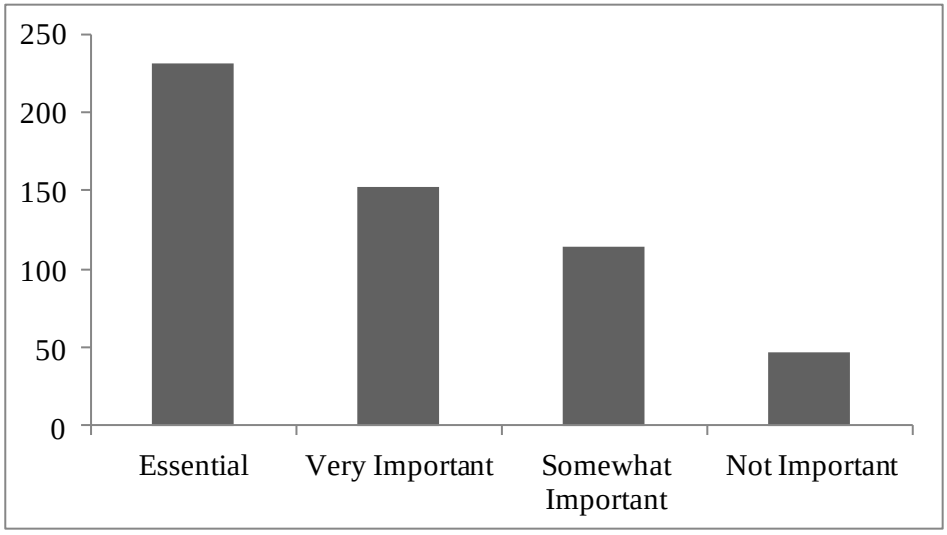
(3) A Graduate Student Open Forum was held on October 26th @7PM in Loeb Playhouse with members of the Board of Trustees and members of the Special Advisory Committee present (this was also broadcast to all campuses);

(4) And the Purdue Graduate Student Government passed a resolution of qualities and characteristics that they recommend for the next Purdue President.

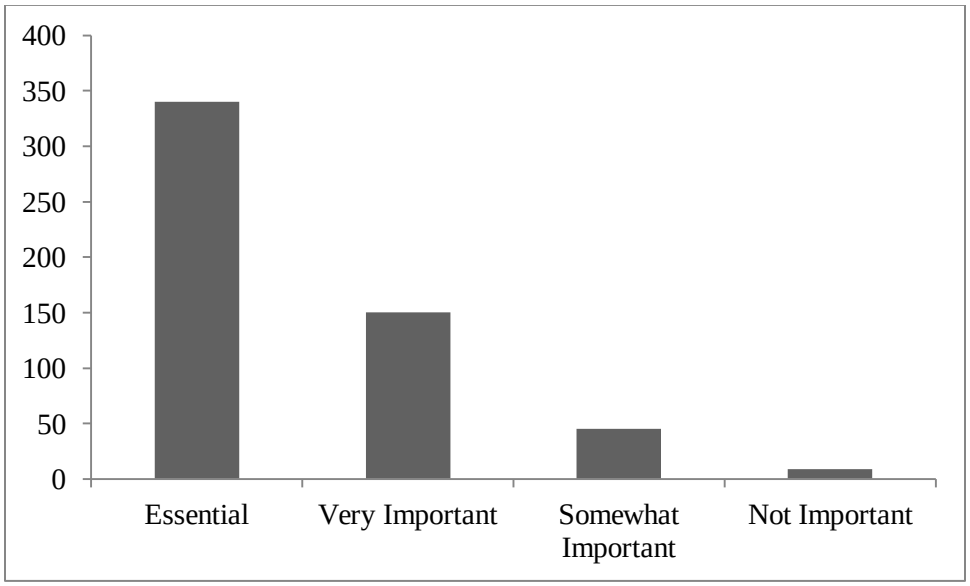
I. SURVEY RESULTS FROM SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SURVEY

Almost 550 graduate students (PWL) participated in this survey. This is a response rate of ~7.25%. The results of the questions are presented below.

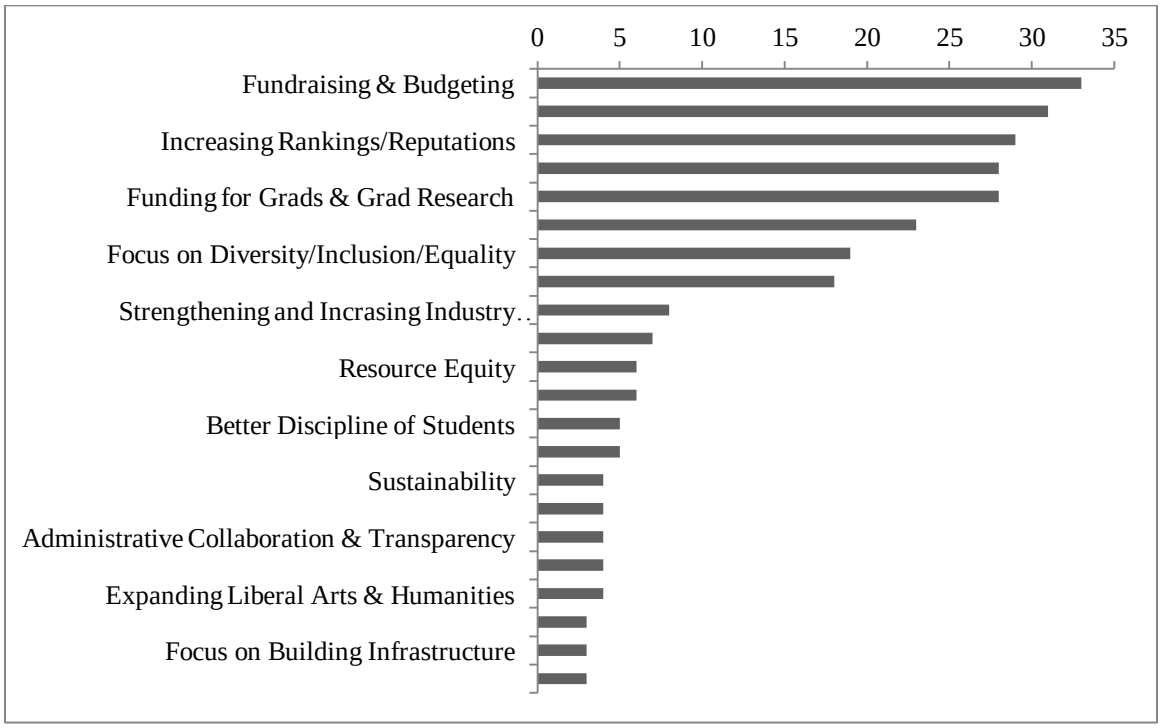
Q1. Please rate the importance of the new President having academic credentials equivalent to being a tenured, full professor at Purdue.



Q2. Please rate the importance of the new President having administrative expertise in leading a large and complex institution.



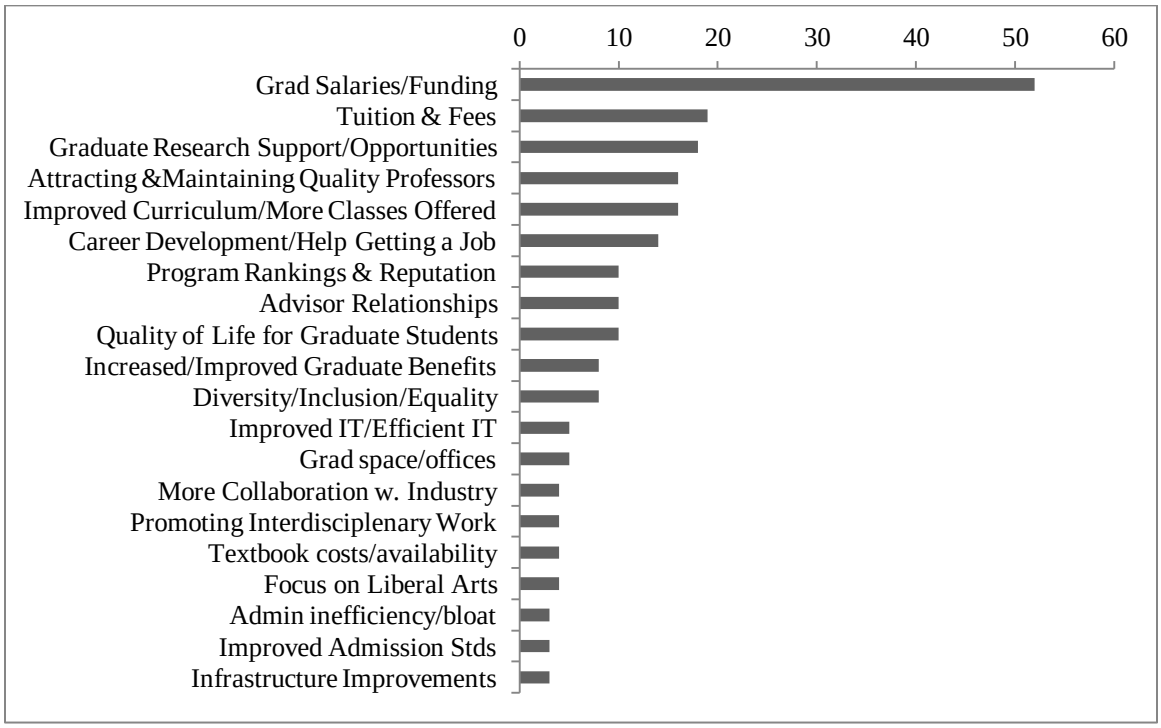
Q3. Please list up to five of the most important challenges (one per line) facing the University as a whole that the new President should address.



Other Responses (<3):

- Focus on Ethics and RCR
- Time to Graduation
- Focus on Interdisciplinary Programs
- Value of Purdue Degree
- Global Reach/Recognition/Collaboration
- Grad Benefits (health, dental, eye, etc)
- BOT w. PhD/grad students
- Reduce Grad workload
- Improving on-campus grad house
- Improve Online Ed
- Grad space on campus/working conditions
- Grade Inflation
- Curriculum Reform
- Curriculum Reform
- Regional Food System Development
- Recognition of Ag Program
- Focus on Laboratories
- Govt. Collaboration
- Encouraging Creativity
- Less fundraising
- Professional Development
- Focus on students
- Less focus on athletics
- Better welcoming/intro to programs
- Improve bus transportation
- Bikes on campus

Q7. Please list up to five of the most important issues (one per line) pertaining to your education that need the new President's attention (100 character limit per line).



Other responses (<3):

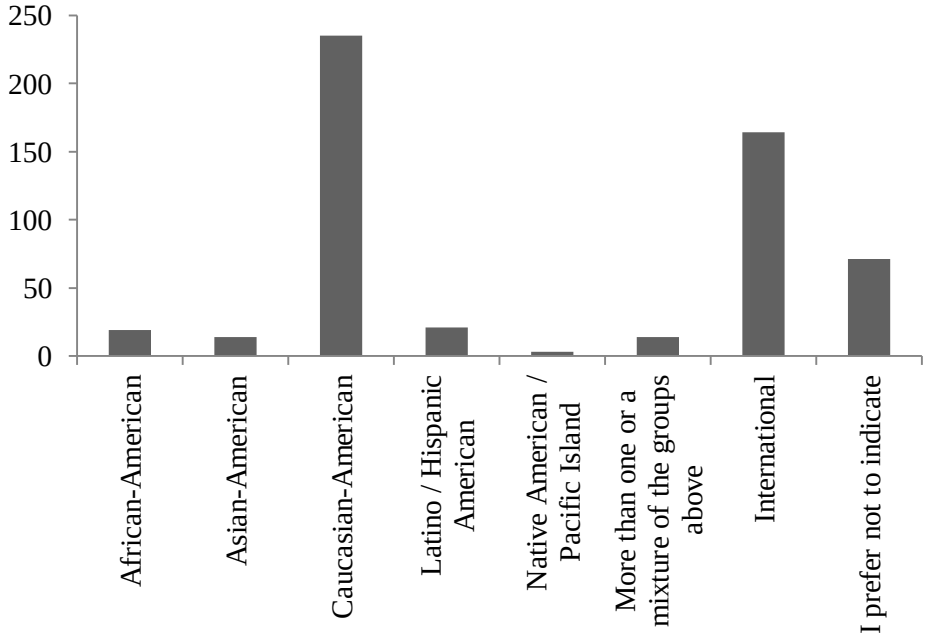
- Improve On Campus Housing
- More Administrative Interaction w. Students
- Teaching Opportunities
- Parking
- Off Campus Support
- Time to Graduation
- Support for PGSG
- Prelim Exam Time Requirement
- Better Welcome to Purdue
- Sustainability
- Departmental Equity of Resources
- Student Discipline
- Improved Athletics
- Grad Status Confusion
- Better Grading System
- Recreational Sports
- Bus Route Improvements

Other Selected Comments:

"Grad students in general are not treated well at Purdue. We are often overlooked and neglected and are usually lumped in with undergrad students. We are a different kind of student and are often forgotten. We don't have a lot of space on campus. We work on our research far more than 20 hours a week. We have families and our free time is spent differently than undergrads. We are not paid well, and even though most of us don't pay tuition, we still have to pay a lot of money toward fees. All of these things make it very hard to be a grad student. Just feeling more welcome here would make a huge difference in our lives."

"As a graduate student in the Philosophy department, I am made a little more than $13,000 per year. It is impossible for me to make ends meet without taking on a second job, which in turn negatively affects my academic performance. I would be happy to furnish my personal budget to the president to show how difficult it is to live on my stipend. **I spend about $25 a week on groceries, I shop at goodwill, I eat with plastic forks and knives. My diet consists of rice, beans, eggs, and canned tuna."**

DEMOGRAPHICS



II. SURVEY FROM STUDENT MEMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL SERACH

The results of this survey were not made available to me in time for this report. From a presentation given by Brad Krites on the survey results some themes seemed to emerge such as: (1) a focus on the land-grant mission, (2) an academic background, (3) less focus on athletics. However, these are from my memory and I do not have the actual data.

III. GRADUATE STUDENT OPEN FORUM ON THE PURDUE PRESIDENTIAL SERACH

A graduate student open forum on the Purdue Presidential Search was held on Wednesday, October 26th @7PM in Loeb Playhouse. The attendance was less than ten. Due to the lack of attendance, discussion from this forum is not included in this report.

IV. PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOULTION 2011-0012

"Graduate Student Recommendations to the Special Advisory Committee for the Purdue University Presidential Search"

WHEREAS
The Presidential Search is already well underway, with the opportunity to provide meaningful graduate student input quickly passing, this legislation is submitted as emergency legislation, as defined in Article II Section C.3 of the Bylaws.

WHEREAS
The Purdue Graduate Student Senate is the voice of graduate students at Purdue University; and

WHEREAS
Less than ten graduate students were in attendance at the Graduate Student Open Forum on the Presidential Search and there are no graduate students on the Presidential Search Committee;

BE IT RESOLVED
That the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, on behalf of and in representation of all graduate students at Purdue University, West Lafayette, do hereby recommend the following criteria to the Special Advisory Committee for the Purdue University Presidential Search as important qualities and commitments that graduate students feel the:

New President of Purdue University (in no particular order):

(1) Should come from an academic background and have a PhD or equivalent,
(2) Should maintain an internal focus working closely with students, faculty and staff to make decisions at the University,
(3) Should prioritize building the infrastructure of Purdue in order to create a more sustainable and efficient University,
(4) Should maintain, support and help initiate global collaborations to expand the reach of the Purdue brand,
(5) Should maintain and uphold the mission of Purdue University,
(6) Should focus on expanding and incorporating the Liberal Arts and Humanities along with STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Agriculture Math),
(7) Should be allowed and willing to remain in residence for more than four years in order to grow programs, infrastructure, and projects,
(8) And should focus on Purdue University's Strategic Initiative to increase the graduate student population by improving and creating resources for graduate students at Purdue University that attract and maintain the highest quality graduate students from around the world.