

UG & Graduate Student INPUT – Feb 21, 2018

Session Summary

There were not enough attendees to conduct a World Café, but we used the Café questions and split into two groups to address each of the first three questions, followed by a group discussion of the last two questions. There were 11-13 participants with a good mix of undergraduate and graduate students, representing various disciplines. None of the participants appeared to know one another prior to this discussion. They were all very engaged and we went full time only losing one student prior to the end. There was at least one non-student in the group, perhaps two. There was great exchanges between students throughout and they had surprisingly consistent experience and view points on the main themes. There was also a lot of learning from each other as the session went on, emphasizing real-time how inconsistent communication can be across the campus on important topics.

Themes and supporting ideas

These points came from the session flip charts and general notes taken by two table monitors and quickly cross-checked with Michelle's notes who was listening to the entire group discussion.

Social justice and equity matters to us

- any student should be able to attend OSU without worrying about money
- think about being a world citizen university – with no out-of-state tuition
- Cultural centers are a big deal, feels like we can make an impact here; they are the most important assets on campus, but they are geared only toward UG, which is unfortunate
- diversity focus is important – keep up the good work
- the difference in building/facility quality is striking and it sends a message to certain groups about what is important
- students with families are part of the diversity mix
- industry panels are all white and male
- we have a sports identity which drives a difficult dynamic
- OSU doesn't understand diversity; it always communicates through emails, not action

Cost is a big issue

- what we are paying for is a big mystery
- hate surprise add-ons for specific course – aren't we already paying enough?
- we prefer having more dedicated funding options – i.e. pay for participation (e.g. food pantry versus access to athletic events) – although we know and understand there is a base that needs to not work that way

SET is very important but we think it doesn't work

- not set up for real-time feedback, which limits its value
- professors don't listen, we want faculty who care
- problematic when taking multiple courses from same faculty
- need to hold faculty accountable for consistency in common things like
 - ↳ must use canvas

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- ↳ must come to class prepared
- ↳ can't use TAs exclusively or excessively
- ↳ poor alignment between professor and TAs and then no office hours
- It's crazy that e-mail names are hidden – we can't find our professors
- research is great, but I am looking for instruction first

There are unnecessary differences across OSU that make things hard to navigate and poor communication that makes it worse

- inconsistent advising approach across disciplines; grad students have no independent resource like UG
- lots of good recruitment forums but promised things that don't work once you get here
- too much variability/ complexity
- left to sink or swim after arrival
- lots of activities but no visibility into what they are – have to learn by word of mouth
- we have a bouncing problem – we get bounced from place to place – no one owns helping us solve our issues, they just focus on their little area – we need a CARE Network (*turns out we have one that is just getting started – no one knew this*)
- OSU website is difficult to navigate for students
- My OSU is tough to navigate and take too much time and effort
- course catalog is not useful or inaccurate
- requirements are unclear
- quarter system is a real issue, particularly for certain experiential opportunities that key off of a semester assumption, it is an inherently more stressful structure

We like OSU

- OSU feels like home
- It's cool that OSU is a land, sea and space grant university
- OSU is a practical, big university yet still accessible
- It would be exciting for OSU to be known for something special –
 - ↳ best Liberal Arts program at a Land Grant University
 - ↳ Really significant and well-integrated center that solves big problems (e.g. public health)
 - ↳ Something that makes a statement about equity and inclusion