

**NMHU Strategic Planning**  
**Faculty Forum: Graduate Programs**  
**March 27, 2015**

**31 people attended**

David Sammeth: Introduction

Question: Where are our graduate programs now and where do we want them to go?

Report from Jean Hill, Office of Institutional Research

Strengths of graduate programs: faculty comments

- Programs provide opportunities to students who otherwise would not have them because they are place bound or financially limited which is part of the mission of public institutions
- As an HSI, NMHU awards more graduate degrees to Hispanic students than anywhere else
- Highlands has the benefit of small classes, offers research opportunities and attracts qualified students
- Los Alamos and Sandia labs provide unique opportunities to graduate students=strength of the area
- Many of our graduate students do research locally which creates possibilities for them after graduation
- Graduate programs can be profitable for the university
- Graduate programs are funded at a higher rate than undergraduate programs
- Graduate programs elevate the undergraduate programs
- Graduate programs justify the acquisition of more sophisticated scientific equipment
- Graduate programs help to recruit faculty
- Graduate programs in education are pretty healthy and the graduates from those programs are finding jobs
- Some grant funding is dependent on having a graduate program
- The income from grant indirects help education overall
- Graduate students tend to live in town and help the local economy
- Graduate students study the local resource base and propel local geological mapping and place based research
- Graduate practicums provide services to the community
- Graduate assistants work for the university and in English they teach composition
- Graduate students recruit other students
- Graduate students mentor undergrads
- Faculty research productivity increases with graduate programs

Weaknesses of graduate programs: How can we make them stronger?

- Graduate students need more help with writing
- More institutional attention and resources needed to advertise and recruit
- More attention to how many graduate students NMHU can accommodate given faculty workloads
- Lack of appreciation on the part of administration for what graduate education requires
- Attention to recruitment—perhaps a separate office
- Need for a better webpage and a webmaster—online information essential
- Sustainability-some small programs okay
- Need for GAships; reconsideration of dollar amount awarded to GAs
- Reconsideration of 4/4 teaching loads for graduate faculty
- Administration's lack of recognition of time spent---sense that it doesn't matter
- Need graduate student input into strategic plan
- More consideration as to what would help students complete their degree
- Help faculty learn how to take students from the beginning to the end of their programs
- More courses available to graduate students in education in their concentrations
- Scheduling: how is the required number of students in a course determined?
- Over the last seven years, the psych program has graduated 30-35 students—all working in the field
- Larger undergraduate classes should balance smaller graduate classes
- Some grants are unavailable if the institution does not have a graduate program
- There should be no distinction made between “professional” and “traditional” graduate programs
- Further discussion of a distinction between research vs. teaching faculty
- Need for a plan to move forward
- Need for a stated commitment by the administration to graduate programs

What should be included in the strategic plan?

- Professional development for faculty to complete students
- Commitment from administration to graduate programs
- Recognition that all programs (grad and undergrad/ disciplines) are connected
- Recognize all programs as a whole