Graduate roundtable

4/26/17

Kirsty Budd and Ashley McKnight, Student Success Office
We want you to get to know each other!

We would love to introduce everyone, but we’ve got lots to get to!

We challenge you to take a look around the room and go up to one of our new friends at the break!
Why is the SSO leading the grad session?

- SSO strategic planning in summer 2016 identified four priority projects:
  - *Graduate Student Success*
  - *Student Success through Advising*
  - Internal Transfers
  - International Student Success

* Partnership with GSO has been established, project and work has support of Jeff Casello
Background

- **Graduate Student Success**
  - Kirsty Budd, Faculty Relations Manager in SSO is leading the project and working closely with key contacts in GSO, faculties and campus partners
  - Understanding the graduate student experience at Waterloo from many angles

- **Student Success through Advising**
  - Luke Balch, Cross Campus Advising Specialist in SSO is leading the project and working closely with key contacts in the faculties as well as with campus partners
  - Understanding key advising and front line supports in graduate student experience
What is graduate student success?

- Navigating relationship to supervisor
- Academics – course difficulty, instructor quality, academic processes
- Mental health and wellness supports
- Navigating resources/services – knowing when to go where for what
- Accessing space – office space, labs, grad specific social space
- Finding meaningful social connections
- Accessing relevant training – TA training, career prep, leadership
- Accessing financial support
Goals

- Mapping out the graduate student experience: understanding our pride and pain points as well as the different supports that exist

- Use this knowledge to develop a preliminary strategy that facilitates a positive student experience for graduate students. This strategy will include:
  
  - A plan for supporting Graduate Coordinators and other key positions in graduate student-facing roles
  
  - A plan for connecting campus partners with Graduate Coordinators and other key roles in order to develop and maintain important working relationships
Roundtable

Looking at graduate student success themes, how does your work connect to these? In a typical interaction with a grad student from your dept. around any of these themes, what is your role?
In these interactions, what happens when something comes up as a challenge? Either you’re uncertain of the answer to a question or you don’t have enough information, what are your go-to resources, supports etc. on campus for each of these themes?
In thinking about these challenges that you’ve identified, or in another time when you maybe didn’t feel you had the information or resources needed, what would have helped?
Coffee Chats

• Monthly professional development opportunity

• Looking for more attendees in the graduate world, we need your feedback!

• Sign up for our mailing list

• Topics and speakers range
Next steps

- Continuing meetings across campus (Faculties in May)
- Synthesizing our learnings and sharing with GSO, working with GSO to determine areas of focus
- Communicating back to stakeholders about areas of focus, checking understanding
- Collaborating with key contacts
Stay in touch!

Kirsty Budd
k2budd@uwaterloo.ca

Contact for:
- Questions or ideas about the graduate student experience at Waterloo
- For example: Sharing key contacts or units that should be involved, sharing ideas about ways we could enhance things

Luke Balch
lbalch@uwaterloo.ca

Contact for:
- Questions or ideas about support for student-facing advising roles
- For example: Coffee Chats topics, Advisor Conference ideas, programs or supports for advising roles you’ve seen at other institutions