

Charter: Task Force Examining the Lack of Graduate-Specific Data

August 2015



Timeline & Commitment

Start date: August 2015
End date: January 2016

Composition

- Chair: Emily Osborn, Northwestern University
- Peggy Blocker, Illiff School of Theology
- John Ingram, Duquesne University
- David DeBoer, Davenport University
- Fabiola Ortega, Florida International University
- Ian Cooper, Northcentral University
- Mendy Schmerer, University of Oklahoma
- NASFAA Staff Liaisons: Charlotte Etier and Stephen Payne

Background & Purpose

The 2015 Graduate/Professional Issues Task Force Report identified several issues of importance to the G/P community and corresponding recommendations to mitigate those issues. One of the issues identified included the lack of graduate-specific student aid data. To address this problem, the Task Force recommended the creation of a new Task Force to tackle this issue and identify data needs specific to graduate student financial aid.

Currently, the large preponderance of student aid data consists of either aggregate undergraduate and graduate information or solely undergraduate information. Professional organizations like the American Bar Association (ABA) and the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) participate in data collection, but their information remains inconsistent and centered around certain disciplines.

While we know graduate-specific data can be beneficial to benchmark aid with peer institutions and to capably advocate for students at the institutional, state, and federal level, we still need to identify exactly what information and data will best serve students and aid administrators and potential other reasons for wanting this data. This task force will identify 1) the data that is currently being collected and 2) what new data the community would like to see collected in the future. In addition, the task force will develop the intended purpose and use for both.

Task Force Members' Duties & Responsibilities

- Attend all committee meetings and participate in the deliberations. Notify the committee Chair and the staff liaison if circumstances prevent attendance at a particular meeting.
- Adhere to deadlines for submission of committee assignments;
- Review all agenda items and background documents prior to each meeting and come prepared for the discussions;
- Serve as recording secretary for a committee meeting if requested by the task force chair;
- Utilize the most economical means of transportation when attending a meeting and promptly file a travel reimbursement request;
- Submit multiple conference sessions for NASFAA's National Conference

Indicators of Success & Outcomes

The Task Force will produce a report to the NASFAA Board of Directors by January 2015 that identifies multiple graduate-specific data elements that will assist the G/P community in benchmarking themselves against their peers and advocating for their students at the institutional, state, and federal level. They will also provide recommendations on how NASFAA can best support G/P institutions moving forward.

Budget

Planned expenditures are roughly \$ 12,000 from the NASFAA operating budget.