Graduate Studies Information Exchange

April 10, 2012

The topic of the session was Orientation and Professional Development

The purpose of the Graduate Studies Information Exchange is to provide an interactive opportunity for the School of Graduate Studies and the Departments/Programs to hear from one another. It is an equally important opportunity for diverse departments and programs to network and develop a better understanding of how different programs operate.

In that spirit, the SGS is always open to suggestions from programs which topics they would like to hear about and discuss. We encourage you to introduce topics in the future.

The SGS is currently developing a communications plan as a measure of disseminating the information required by students and programs to assure graduate student academic careers are successful. The SGS would like to hear opinions of what works and what could be changed.

Orientation is an important start to communicating with graduate students as they arrive on campus. The resource fair is also an important component of that initial introduction to campus and the many resources available to each of our students. The discussion concluded that the resource fair should be continued. Departments would like notification of the time and location of the resource fair as quickly as possible because they want to include it in their orientation schedules.

Some programs have great success with upper year students organizing the orientation events.

The Library offers tours of their facilities and can help specific programs with their student’s research needs.

The International Centre offers a billeting program for international students who have arrived in Kingston without a place to stay. Please contact QUIC for more information on this and other relevant and valuable programs.

The Kingston Welcome Centre at Flora McDonald/Confederation Basin is an excellent resource for Kingston.

SGS is currently working with the Admissions group in the Office of the University Registrar to expand the campus tours available and to ensure a special tour for graduate students is offered late in August and throughout September.

Professional Development was discussed in relation the SGS’s Expanding Horizons Program. The SGS does not want to duplicate course offerings and would like to expand the current selection. It is important for students to develop the skills that will be necessary for them to be successful once their education is complete. A good example of skill development is the 3MT Competition offered by the SGS.

The SGS wants to emphasize the importance of academic integrity with our students and programs. We want to work closely with our programs and departments to ensure the dissemination of this knowledge.