

PROGRESS ON INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Based on UAA's March 2020 *Ad Hoc Report to Address Recommendations 1 and 2 from the NWCCU Fall 2018 Year Seven Evaluation Report*, on July 22, 2020 NWCCU informed UAA that both recommendations have been fulfilled.

Recommendation #1: *Expand efforts around institutional planning of graduate programs to demonstrate their academic quality and role in mission fulfillment. (Standard 2.C.12) - Fulfilled*

Although UAA fulfilled Recommendation 1, the March 2020 ad hoc report promised to describe the results of hiring a new dean for graduate studies, as well as progress on developing and implementing a strategic plan, and selecting and presenting data collected for graduate students and programs in its *Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report*. Continued progress in these areas is described below.

The Results of Hiring a New Dean

UAA conducted a national search and hired a dean of the Graduate School who began August 4, 2020. The dean was charged by the provost with developing a master plan for the Graduate School to inform a subsequent strategic plan. As a result, graduate gra 1ltnnatan.fodevg morh5(o7t)2.99m8(i96(in)-2.004(ento)-1.994(fo)-2.01

3. Established a partnership with active military at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to recruit and enroll students in various graduate degree programs through providing live webinars, circulating flyers, and developing future face-to-face information sessions.
4. Planned the “Return to Learn” amnesty program to incentivize students to return to finish their degrees. This program was prompted by institutional data reporting close to 900 graduate students not currently enrolled and not yet graduated. Waived application fees along with tailored advising will be offered to support returning students’ efforts in degree completion.
5. Initiated two faculty development opportunities, including a series on teaching graduate students, which will be co-sponsored with CAFÉ in the 2021 Fall Teaching Academy, and a faculty peer mentoring program focused on enhancing research productivity, which will be co-sponsored with the Office of Research.