

GEM R2PC Committee Recommendations

Background

In order to achieve our Top Tier objective to increase the number of PhD graduates at UNLV, it is important to recruit the best students for our research-active faculty to mentor. While not a problem campus-wide, some units appear to be losing quality applicants, as they are required to make decisions to accept offers from competing institutions, often bundled with a financial (assistantship) package at a much earlier date than is required at UNLV.

In addition to admission to the university, most doctoral students are interested in a financial (assistantship) package to support their academic endeavors. This committee is of the voice that delivery of formal admission along with timely offer of a financial package would augment our ability to “land” strong student recruits. To this end, the committee has a series of linked recommendations, which appear below.

Recommendations

Aligned with committee discussion during the previous academic year, and in an effort to augment recruitment efforts, the R2PC committee makes the following recommendations relative to application deadlines, GA allocations, and GA distribution guidelines:

1. Encourage academic units to modify (move up) application deadlines. Recognizing that not all programs have this flexibility, the committee recommends for those with this potential, move the current application deadlines 2-4 weeks earlier.
 - a. Encourage academic units to have decision deadlines.
2. Change application deadlines for GA assistantships, including all supporting materials, to February 1 (Fall semester) or October 1 (Spring semester) unless the current academic unit has an earlier deadline.
3. Encourage Deans to distribute allocations to departments within two weeks of receipt of college allocations.
4. Encourage departments to recommend GA recipients within one month of receiving allocations.