L&S CAREER INITIATIVE UPDATE : WEEK OF 3/3/14

CAREER INITIATIVE (CI) PROGRESS REPORT

1. It was exciting to hear Chancellor Blank speak about the Career Initiative in depth at the UW Advisor Conference, which was attended by 240 advisors, academic deans, and administrators across the campus. Improving the student experience is one of her priorities, and the CI has the potential to be a model for doing so.

2. We are thrilled to have the Career Initiative partner with the Wisconsin Alumni Association to hire a Director of Alumni Networks & Career Resources joint position. The position has been posted and can be found here: [http://qtigroup.com/JobDescription.aspx?jpid=bh_589](http://qtigroup.com/JobDescription.aspx?jpid=bh_589). Please feel free to share this listing.

3. The CI team launched a career activities survey to catalog career development and employer and alumni engagement programming in L&S departments. The survey will close on 5/15/14, and we expect to report our findings shortly thereafter. May we encourage you to check on your department and its completion of this important survey? Let’s work to create a sense of urgency around this project (DeLong). Thank you!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

We are beginning initial work on the alumni surveys. There are two ways to get involved:

1. Help us answer the question: “How could data collected on L&S alumni career trends help you in your work?” Discuss this with your colleagues in your department or unit and reply to this email (no need to “reply all”).

2. Interested in being on a short-term work team to prepare the alumni surveys? The group will meet through April. Reply to this email by the end of the week to let us know.

Q & A

There were many, very good questions raised in the survey responses. Here’s our attempt to answer two of them, with more answers to come in future communications.

Q What do we say to university partners who are confused that the Career Initiative is not happening within L&S Career Services?

A The Career Initiative is an initiative that is broader than just career development. The CI team aims to link alumni engagement efforts and academic skill development to the career development process. We are creating unique opportunities for faculty, alumni specialists, and student services professionals to collaborate on the same mission. Additionally as part of the CI, L&S Career Services is undergoing a transformation and reorganization. The transformative work will align Career Services’ resources more closely with several large segments of the CI. The coordinated intent is to enhance the quality and scope of services extended to L&S student through both the Initiative and this valued office.
Q Will departments be able to provide input into the L&S survey attached to the APIR Post-Graduation Questionnaire?
A For the first time, APIR is permitting schools and colleges to pilot the creation of a short college-specific survey that will be attached to APIR’s Post-Graduation Questionnaire. Due to the short length of the survey and the immediate need for data on students’ career readiness, we have decided to use this survey as a benchmarking tool for CI projects. The survey will gather information about students’ confidence in their degree, level of participation in career preparation and experiential activities such as internships, and beliefs about their long-term success. We will be unable to break out major-specific results in this pilot project. At this early stage, it seems unlikely that this survey will serve as a good alternative to departments’ senior exit surveys.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Here’s an example of an L&S student who is eager to engage in ways to tie their academic experiences to their career development.

“I wish there was more of a connection between advisers and students so they could help find the opportunities that are best for you and help formulate an academic and career plan that highlights what you want to accomplish here at the UW and beyond.” - L&S undergraduate upon being asked “Do you have any suggestions for improving the L&S advising experience?” (November 2013)

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS?

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