

Reorganizing and Strengthening Graduate Education at Rutgers New Brunswick: The Rutgers Division of Graduate Studies-New Brunswick

Submitted by:

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Proposal:

To create a Rutgers Division of Graduate Studies–New Brunswick

Requested by:

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Jerome J. Kukor, Ph.D. Dean, Rutgers GSNB
Executive Councils of GSBS and GSNB
Dean’s Advisory Council, GSNB

Unit type:

The proposed Rutgers Division of Graduate Studies is an academic entity that will encompass graduate education on the New Brunswick campus and include the GSNB and GSBS.
(See appendix for a description of the graduate schools)

Timeline:

We propose that creation of this Division receives approval within this calendar year

Reason for Proposed Division:

The integration of RBHS and Rutgers has provided an unprecedented opportunity to create a comprehensive infrastructure to support graduate training in the life sciences, physical sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities in New Brunswick. Currently housed in two schools – Rutgers Graduate School New Brunswick (GSNB) and Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS), our graduate programs aspire to excellence, but require a more unified and robust infrastructure that will support the education and training of our future scholars, break down traditional silos, and enhance opportunities for inter-disciplinary training.

To accomplish this, the deans of GSNB and GSBS are proposing the creation of a new Rutgers Division of Graduate Studies–New Brunswick that will act as the umbrella over all graduate education on the New Brunswick campus. Both GSNB and GSBS will be housed under this Division and the Division will be under the joint management of the Chancellors of New Brunswick and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences. First and foremost, this will provide the ideal structure for our graduate students -- removing current obstacles, facilitating interactions and training opportunities within and across disciplines, and fostering stronger collaborations among our faculty. It will also provide an opportunity to optimize and synergize operations that currently exist in the two schools, with the intent of creating a single world-class infrastructure that affords the graduate education and support found at our AAU and CIC peer institutions

Faculty consultation:

The Executive Councils of GSBS and GSNB were consulted and approved the proposal.

Appendix

1. There is no statutory or contractual requirement for this change.
2. While this does involve academic units, it will have no immediate impact on curriculum.
3. The Rutgers Division of Graduate Studies–New Brunswick is a new entity. The names of the schools within the division will remain the same.
4. The name of the appropriate graduate school will appear on the diplomas.
5. The process for faculty appointments within the GSBS and GSNB will not change.
6. The creation of the Division will be the first step towards harmonizing common processes and procedures across GSNB and GSBS, with the recognition that some processes/procedures will be unique to a particular discipline.
7. The creation of the Division is not expected to have an impact on the size or staffing of the individual graduate schools. Instead, we hope to leverage the current activities in each school to provide enhanced support to our students and faculty.
8. The Division will have a staff of ~20 FTEs. This will create a graduate education support unit that is larger than the one at Indiana; of comparable size to the ones at Ohio State, Michigan State, Minnesota and Penn State; but significantly smaller than the ones at Maryland, Purdue, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin.
9. Each school has an executive council (GSBS has two executive councils) who represent the faculty on matters related to graduate education. All three executive councils were consulted and approved the proposal.
10. N/A
11. The creation of the Division should have no impact on the individual school budgets
12. N/A
13. The costs involved in restructuring are minimal and consist mainly of rebranding and marketing efforts.
14. While we do not anticipate a direct financial benefit from the restructuring, we do expect that the creation of the Division will allow us to develop a more efficient and effective infrastructure, raising the quality of the education that we can provide and assuring that the Rutgers Division of Graduate Studies is viewed as a premiere, world-class educational institution. Attracting the top students will put us in a better position to attract more federal and private funding as well as philanthropy.
15. We do not expect any significant impact on enrollments as a direct consequence of the creation of the Division.
16. See above
17. N/A
18. The Division of Graduate Studies will provide a unique home for researchers, educators and graduate students across all disciplines and spanning Rutgers New Brunswick and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences. This powerhouse will help to nucleate interactions within and across disciplines, will facilitate undergraduate-to-graduate pipeline programs and will be the public face of graduate education in Rutgers-New Brunswick
19. N/A

20. The cost of not restructuring is not so much financial as educational. By leveraging the capabilities of the two graduate schools we will begin to create an infrastructure that supports graduate education to the same level as our peer institutions.
21. The graduate schools are accredited by Middle States. It is our understanding that since the creation of the new Division does not impact the current structure/faculty/curriculum of the individual graduate schools, there are no accreditation issues involved.