Grad Program Coordinator Meeting 4/28/14
Discussion item: Acceptance and onboarding strategies

What kinds of things are programs doing to increase yield of good candidates?

Spanish/Portugues Faculty contact top candidates - ask them if they have questions – They do this in February, late January

Program arranges for current student volunteers to answer new admits questions about the program

One program sends a survey in May to ask about their application experience -

Grad Cafe discussion - a website that students use to post where they've applied, when they've been contacting. It’s a way for students to communicate with each other to get an idea of what our competitors are doing.

Fall admissions deadlines? CGS agreement is April 15 - the earliest you can ask a student to commit.

What are time frames program use when they start talking to students?

Admit once a year, review is week before classes start in January. A letter is sent with a recommendation to admit.

Review everything online.
We changed to January 1st acceptance rate is higher than previously.

Direct admit to program

Letting students know early on that they are admitted so they know their stipend rates. (there was an increase in TA stipend with Act 10.)

Make comparisons of cost of living - ie. Madison vs Stanford
The university could do something about this as a whole.

Add a budget calculator to prospect student site. (The Graduate School will add this to the Guide to Graduate Student Life.)

Block grants for fellowships in biological, physical sciences and social studies

Other strategies for onboarding
What do you do between now and when they arrive
Coordinators will try to connect current grad students with new students coming in for housing suggestions.

Grad Chat for graduate students - only for students

Peer mentor match

Contact with newly admitted students - reaching out earlier.

See the May CoordLink for information about the onboarding efforts that the Graduate School has planned for new students this year.