

Factors Related to Graduate Student Complaints.

Graduate students occupy a niche in the academic community that has unique problems and conditions which give even ordinary problems a different flavor and extra complications. Some of these problems and conditions (in no particular order and with no claim of completeness or uniform importance) are:

1. Lack of options and flexibility--- can't change advisers, departments, or universities easily.
2. Danger of "getting crosswise" with adviser or being caught in crossfire of warring faculty.
3. Double edged sexual harassment liability.
4. Used as cheap labor to support faculty projects or departmental teaching obligations.
5. Difficulty in receiving appropriate credit for research and publications.
6. Used as instructional scapegoats in ongoing debate about teaching quality.
7. Fairness of TA and RA selection processes (including questions of discrimination based on national origin or native language).
8. Heavy teaching load with little pay, credit, help, guidance (also load inequities),
9. Stress associated with balance of teaching, research, classwork, family responsibilities, etc.
10. Pressure to support own research through grants.
11. Worst-of-both-worlds status relative to health insurance, athletic tickets, parking, use of various facilities, etc.
12. Coordination problems and obligations associated with internships, professional organizations and meetings, external certification.
13. Residency requirements, visas, out-of-state tuition waivers, income tax and other financial and legal entanglements.
14. Housing.
15. Graduate instructors and advisers are traditionally given a great deal of slack in their relationships with students, and
16. Graduate schools have a tendency to operate separately from the rest of the university and be a "law unto themselves".

17. Re-entry problems particularly those associated with inflexibility of grade point and class load requirements, time limitations, financial support systems, field and adviser choice, etc.

18. Lack of built in or readily available support system (tutors, advisers, counselors, resident hall support staff, student affairs office, fraternities and sororities, nearby family and friends).