



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL CENTER

Staff Development



Faculty Development Showcase Week:
Committee 101 - The Role of Faculty in Guidance Committees

Course Description:

Guidance committees are responsible for the successful completion of student research, and the writing of the dissertation or thesis. Even though very few students fail to arrive at a successful completion, committees often experience some forms of dysfunctionality resulting in frustration, and wasted time and resources. Part of the problem stems from the lack of clarity about the work of the guidance committee. In some instances, the committee is not sure of what the main purpose is and what steps to follow to ensure student progress. Committee members may be unclear about their roles within the committee and in relation to the student. The committee may lack ways to communicate effectively and to give input about the student's work and writing. The committee chair is the rightful leader of the committee. The chair must help define how the committee will work with the student, and should facilitate understanding of the roles of committee members and the student during the guidance process. Effective communication between all is essential for successful completion of the dissertation or thesis.

Course Objectives:

The participant will:

1. Identify the purpose and work of the guidance committee
2. Articulate the role of the committee chair
3. State the role of committee members

COMMITTEE 101:
THE ROLE OF FACULTY IN
GUIDANCE COMMITTEES

RAFAEL CANIZALES, PHD

OBJECTIVES

- PURPOSE OF GUIDANCE COMMITTEES
- CONDITIONS TO JOIN A COMMITTEE
- EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS
- ROLE OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

JANE/JIM



THE PROBLEM

THE PROBLEM

- SHE DID NOT KNOW

THE PROBLEM

- SHE DID NOT KNOW
- DYSFUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE


THE PROBLEM

- SHE DID NOT KNOW
- DYSFUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE
- COMMITTEE CHAIR

THE PROBLEM

- SHE DID NOT KNOW
- DYSFUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE
- COMMITTEE CHAIR 
- COMMITTEE MEMBER 

THE PROBLEM

- SHE DID NOT KNOW
- DYSFUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE
- COMMITTEE CHAIR 
- COMMITTEE MEMBER 
- SAD ENDING...

THE PROBLEM



ATTRITION

- CIRCA 50% OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

ATTRITION

- CIRCA 50% OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS
- 25% OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

ATTRITION

- CIRCA 50% OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS
- 25% OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES
- STUDENT FAILURE

ATTRITION

- CIRCA 50% OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS
- 25% OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES
- STUDENT FAILURE
- COMMITTEE FAILURE?

GUIDANCE COMMITTEES

- WRITE A DISSERTATION
- ACHIEVE RESEARCH INDEPENDENCE
- MAKE ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION TO DISCIPLINE

GUIDANCE COMMITTEES

- SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE DISSERTATION
- STUDENT SUCCESS



COMMITTEE

- STUDENT
- CHAIR/ADVISOR
- COMMITTEE MEMBERS/FACULTY
- NEED FOR CLEAR ROLES

YOUR THESIS COMMITTEE

Also known as the impenetrably difficult group to get together in one room but whose members hold your fate in their hands depending on their ability to reach a civilized consensus.



Your Professor
Simultaneously your biggest ally and your worst enemy. Will be the first to suggest you do more work.



The Guru
Only here for the free cookies. Don't forget to bring cookies.



The Adversary
Has better ideas with your Professor and will argue the exact opposite view. Work this to your advantage.



The Stream/woman
None say. No opinion.



The Assistant Professor
Still doesn't believe just a few months ago they were on the other side just like you. Pretends to be an adult.

NONE OF THEM WILL ACTUALLY READ YOUR ENTIRE THESIS.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

BEGINNINGS

- INVITATION

BEGINNINGS

- INVITATION
- ACCEPT OR NOT?

BEGINNINGS

- INVITATION
- ACCEPT OR NOT?
- CRUCIAL OPPORTUNITY



CONTRACT

- YOUR CONTRIBUTION?

CONTRACT

- YOUR CONTRIBUTION?
- WRITE THE DISSERTATION?

CONTRACT

- YOUR CONTRIBUTION?
- WRITE THE DISSERTATION?
- YOUR EXPERTISE?



CONTRACT

- YOUR CONTRIBUTION?
- WRITE THE DISSERTATION?
- YOUR EXPERTISE?
- ROLE VARIES



THE STUDENT



THE STUDENT

- COMPETENCE
- MOTIVATION
- INVESTMENT



THE STUDENT

- **COMPETENCE**
- **MOTIVATION**
- **INVESTMENT**
- **YOUR EXPECTATIONS**



DUE DILIGENCE REPORT

- **I AM KEEPING MY SIDE OF THE CONTRACT...**
- **THIS IS WHAT I DID THIS MONTH...**
- **NEXT STEPS...**
- **CHRONOGRAM**

COMMITTEE CHAIR

- **YOUR CALL**
- **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE**
- **NEEDED SCHOLARSHIP**

CHAIR-STUDENT

- MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP
- GREATEST IMPACT ON PERFORMANCE

STUDENTS WHO CHARACTERIZED THEIR DISSERTATION EXPERIENCES AS POSITIVE REPORTED THAT THEIR CHAIR WAS RESPONSIVE, SUPPORTIVE, AND PROVIDED STRUCTURE AND GUIDANCE; IN CONTRAST, STUDENTS EXPERIENCING PROBLEMATIC DISSERTATIONS FOUND THEIR ADVISORS TO BE NON-RESPONSIVE AND TO HAVE LIMITED AVAILABILITY.

(BURKARD ET AL., 2007)

FUNCTIONS-STUDENT

- CHEERLEADER
- QUESTIONS AND NEEDS
- COUNSELOR
- COACH
- CRITIC

FUNCTION-COMMITTEE

- POLICIES OF FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
- MEMBERSHIP IN FGS



COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

DURING THE WRITING OF THE DISSERTATION OR THESIS, THE COMMITTEE CHAIR WILL BE THE MAIN SOURCE OF GUIDANCE TO STUDENTS TO ENSURE HIGH QUALITY AND ADHERENCE TO SCHOLARLY STANDARDS.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

- LEADERSHIP AMONG COLLEAGUES
- REGULAR COMMUNICATION WITH COMMITTEE
- JOINT AND CONSensual PROGRESS

STUDENT SUCCESS

- MISSION OF FACULTY IS STUDENT SUCCESS
- ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP
