

**GPSS Report
Slavic Languages and Literature
May 2008**

On May 15, 2008 the University of Washington Graduate & Professional Student Senate Special Assistant participated in a discussion with graduate students in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature (Slavic L&L.) There were nine students present. Of that nine, three were Master's students and six were PhD candidates. The purpose of this discussion was to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the program from the perspectives of Slavic L&L students. This report summarizes students' feedback for consideration in the Graduate School Council's review of the Slavic L&L department.

The following comments are a combination of the short answer survey results from the Catalyst survey sent out to all students in the department and comments made at the discussion.

Program courses and requirements

- Because it is a very small department there are not as many courses offered as the students would like.
- Students are happy with the courses they do take. They are pleased with the content and the instruction of the courses.
- All of the students spoke very highly of their department administrator. Many students said they would not be able to make it through their graduate education without the guidance and expertise of program requirements from this position.

Mentoring

- Excellent mentoring opportunities.
- Students with TA positions have weekly meetings with professors and maintain good communication and interactions.
- Faculty is very accommodating and friendly.

Strengths of program

- Department has an excellent reputation with peer institutions. Some students said they came here based on alumni recommendations.
- There is conference prep and money available for every student that wants it.
- This department is great at tailoring studies for each individual student.
- Excellent library resources and library support.

Improvements

- Department could always use more funding.
- There are very few TA positions available, very competitive. Perhaps if there was more funding there could be more positions.
- It would be helpful if the department could help students more in finding outside funding.

- It would be great if there could be more linguistic professors and graduate courses.