# From Sarcasm to  Substance :
# Searching for Progress on Academic Quality

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**TEACHING**

Internationalization
Increase diversity
Support access mission
On-line courses
Recruit international students
Inquiry-based curriculum
Community-based learning
Undergraduate research
Internships
Writing across the curriculum
Globalization
Sustainability
Numeracy
Updated curriculum
Improve retention
Support Honor's program
Graduate education

**RESEARCH**

Publications

Creative works

Funded Research

What Administrators ask of Faculty

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# AAUP-PSU MOU -TASKFORCE ON ACADEMIC QUALITY (TAQ)

**TAQ 2014 Charge**

"The University agrees to provide support to fund the identification and description of PSU's <u>aspirational comparators</u>."

**TAQ 2014-2015 modification of Charge**

"Identify aspirational comparators of academic quality ... by identify aspirational practices – independent of institution type – that promote AQ"

Campus survey

1. What do you think represents AQ in Teaching,Research,Service?
2. Five institutions that embody this ?
3. What can PSU do to improve AQ in T,R,S?

**TAQ 2015-16**

- Analyze campus-wide survey and conduct literature review
- Identify aspirational practices and potential indicators
- Explore case studies to examine implementation of aspirational practices at other institutions
- Recommendations for implementation at PSU

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# 5 aspirational practices

1. Undergraduate research
2. Graduate experience
3. Writing
4. Interdisciplinary teaching and research
5. Support for faculty scholarly activities

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**Template for Taskforce on Academic Quality Report**

**for each of 5 aspirational practices**

- **Overview of Aspirational Practice**
- **Alignment with Strategic Plan**
- **Summary of literature of the benefits of the practice for students**
- **Case Studies**
  - **3-4 that illustrate different ways to implement best practices**
- **Best Practices**
- **Implementation recommendations for PSU**
  - **What is already being done at PSU**
  - **Based on what we have learned, what more could/should be done, ideas for corralling existing activities for better impact, cost estimates?**
  - **Indicators of successful implementation**
- **Implications for faculty workload**
- **Implications for tenure**
- **Implications for faculty development**

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# AP1 – Undergraduate research

Undergraduate participation in research improves student understanding, confidence, and career awareness; it helps faculty achieve research agenda.

This AP is aligned with **PSU Strategic Plan** Goal to Elevate Student Success and to uphold Community Engagement and Civic Leadership.

- **Best practices**
  - mentorship, funding for students and research, undergrad research office, journals

- **Implication for faculty**
  - can improve research output by faculty, but may require more time to train and mentor students - could be alleviated by linking URO to course work/existing teaching load
  - interpretation of faculty scholarship would shift - recommend a higher emphasis be placed on scholarly work with undergraduate students

- **Preliminary recommendations for new Ad Hoc committee on Undergraduate Research**
  - Funding for research experiences for students and integration of research into curriculum
  - Funding for an undergraduate research office, and initiatives to coordinate undergrad. Research campus wide.
  - Mapping patterns of undergraduate research at PSU and developing metrics for **dashboard**.

- **TAQ task - Fall 2016**
  - explore indicators (% UG students with volunteer or paid research experience at PSU, % UG with senior thesis projects)

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# AP2 – Grad Student Experience

Graduate student success is critical to undergraduate success, improving research capacity and training next generation professionals.

This AP is aligned with **PSU Strategic Plan** Goal to Elevate Student Success and to promote Innovative Research and Scholarship.

- **Best practices** → Addressing financial and professional needs

- **Implication for faculty**
  - Improving conditions for grad students and improving mentor training will likely reduce faculty workload and increase research productivity.

- **Preliminary recommendations for Ad Hoc on Grad Student Experience > Take up Grad Council?**
  - **Expand number of GTAs**
  - **Professional mentor training for faculty**
  - **Last mile scholarship for graduate students**
  - **Career center resources expanded to graduate student**

- Metrics for Implementations – **Dashboard**
  - **# of GTA awarded per School/Dept.**
  - **% of faculty trained to be grad mentors**
  - **Graduation rate of graduate students**
  - **# of graduate students using Career Services**

- **TAQ task - Fall 2016** → Work with Graduate school

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## Aspirational Practices
### Graduate Student Experience

| | KEY? | Funding for graduate students by College | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| yes | | College | number | OIRP | |
| yes | | hourly pay for student workers | dollars | OGS | |
| yes | | GTA | number | OIRP | |
| yes | | no support | number | OIRP | |
| yes | | GRA | number | OIRP | |
| yes | | GAA | number | OIRP | |
| yes | | Scholarships/Fellowships | number | | |
| yes | KEY | Graduation rates of graduate students (by degree level and college) | years to completion | OGS | |
| yes | | Graduation rates by degree level and | rate | OGS | |
| yes | | Number of graduate students using Career | number/year | Career Services | |
| | | Number of grad students who developed a | number/year | AQC survey | |
| | | Number of career workshops for graduate | number/year | AQC survey | |
| | KEY | Graduate student career preparation | Likert rating | AQC survey | |
| yes | | Number of students receiving last mile | amount | OGS | |
| | | | | | |
| | | **Writing** | | | |
| Yes | | Number and focus of faculty workshops | category | UWC | |
| Yes | | Number of WIC course | department | UWC | |
| | | Measure campus support for developing a | | AQC Survey | |
| Yes | | Ways students are currently satisfying writi nsfer | | OIRP | next step |
| | KEY | SINQ Assessment | | | |
| We need this | KEY | Student writing assessment near exiting PSU (Senior Captstone?/By program/Major? | | | |

# AQC Role – Flowchart