

Assessing Research-Doctorate Programs:

A Convocation on Analytic Uses and Future Directions

March 4, 2010

Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill

Washington, D.C.

The NRC Committee on an Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs will hold a convocation on analytic uses of the data from the assessment and future directions for this sort of effort. The convocation will have two parts:

- Papers from administrators, institutional researchers, researchers and policy analysts that illustrate the uses that have been made of the data and ranges of rankings. Examples include:
 - Comparisons with similar programs: How were peer groups chosen? What data beyond the NRC data were brought in? What qualitative factors were considered?
 - Within the university: What conversations were enhanced by use of the study data? What additional information was used?
 - In the research community: Did you find uses for the NRC data? If you found the data problematic, what problems did you identify? What modifications did you need to make to the data presented by the NRC? Did you find the NRC quantification of variability to be helpful?
- A constructive discussion of lessons learned. In particular, if the study is updated, what would be helpful in assuring a timely and useful product in the future (for example: fewer data elements, clearer directions, changes in the taxonomy so that fields map to CIPS codes, exploring alternative sources for bibliometric data, greater—or less—emphasis on ranges of rankings). Discussion of more general approaches to improving the usefulness of the study will also be encouraged.

Although it is still early in the life of the study, the committee would like to encourage submission of short papers or abstracts relating to either of the above topics. The purpose of the convocation is to share analytic work that has been carried out so that other users can learn from these efforts and to use this work to think about the future. The deadline for submission of papers or abstracts is February 15. Submissions should be sent to: ckuh@nas.edu. Following the convocation, presented papers will be made available in a web-only proceedings publication.

If you are interested in attending, either in person or via webcast, please follow the RSVP link and let us know by February 15 (<http://nas.march-convocation.sgizmo.com/s3/>). A block of rooms in Washington has been reserved and is available on a first come first served basis. Please mention “**Research Doctorate-Programs convocation**” to receive the special rate. Travel expenses will be covered for speakers and

discussants. Other participants will be expected to cover their own expenses. Please address questions about arrangements to Shall@nas.edu