**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**March 21, 2022**

**3:00 – 4:30 pm**

Zoom: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/88662223494?pwd=bUhOb1Z0ZEgwcnQyS1RqcGZoRVRBUT09>

**Agenda**

Present: Dominique Galli, Margaret Graves, Diane Henschel, Natalia Rybas, Shu Cole, Stacie King, Hangxian Pen, Nathan Schmidt, Larry Moss, Beth Samuelson, Jason Jackson, Scott Aoki, Subir Bandyopadhyay, Lisa Hoffman, Jeff Rutherford, Alyson Essex, Janice Blum, Tabitha Hardy, Spencer Hall, David Daleke, James Wimbush, Aaron Carroll, Louis van der Elst and Vik Meadows

1. Approval of [minutes](https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1506992/files/folder/GFC%20Documents%202021-22/GFC%202021%20Meeting%20Agenda%20and%20Minutes%20-%20Feb%2021%2C%202022?preview=137108528) from Council meeting on [February 21, 2022](https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1506992/files/folder/GFC%20Documents%202021-22/GFC%202021%20Meeting%20Agenda%20and%20Minutes%20-%20Feb%2021%2C%202022?preview=137108528) – unanimously approved with no changes.
2. Committee Reports

* APC
  + Leave policy to be addressed in fall
  + Qualtrics survey on W grades
    - 15 responses from across IU - no problems with withdrawals reported
    - More coming on this next month
  + Break policy request for grad students
    - APC prefers not to act on this - would be hard to enforce mandated breaks in various situations
    - University Faculty Council will not act on this to avoid micromanagement of classrooms
* Awards Committee
  + Well’s Graduate Scholarship Recipient
    - Muna Adem - Department of Sociology at IUB for 2022-23 fellowship
  + John Edwards Fellowship Recipients
    - Alexis Grant - Clinical Psychology Program at IUPUI
    - Samantha Espana - Law Student at IUB
  + University Distinguished Dissertation Award - will be reviewed in May
    - Nominations are due by April 29th

* DEIC
  + Guest Graduate Students - Vick Meadows and Louis Vanderoust, who contributed to the committee work
  + Data processing and Analysis
    - Excel spreadsheet shared with committee – shows data by school, graduate level, demographic factors and other characteristics
    - There are a lot of holes in the data - for example missing information on disability
    - IU online programs uses different applications for admissions - may not have data on these students
    - No preliminary analysis done yet - analysis report to be done in summer
    - All data for this project is from SIS
  + University Diversity Reports
    - Discrepancy between IU’s reports and lived experience of diversity among students
    - IU has received awards for diversity - still seems that we aren’t doing enough to support graduate enrollment and retention of diverse students
    - President Whitten is committed to diversity and inclusion - initiatives moving forward address diversity issues - there is always more that we can do
* GIC
  + Bookkeeping project - Updating Bylaws and Constitution - Report coming next meeting
  + Main project - developing a set of prompts for dialogue between advisors and students
    - Project has been put on hold - will return to this after the summer
    - May want to consider a Co-chair for this committee

1. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing

Guest: Aaron Carroll

* Reviewed former task force plans attempting to address mental health and wellbeing issues (at IU and other institutions)
* Looked over all recommendations to create a plan for action
* Strategic plan approved in January - posted on website (https://www.iu.edu/mental-health/about/whats-next.html)
  + Set up 3 new task forces - (culture and climate, services and support, policies and protocols)
  + Picked co-chairs and members for each task force
  + Each received a list of action items - all posted on website - final recommendations from task forces to be submitted by end of semester
  + Next step is to start implementing recommendations before the fall
  + Focus on graduate students is part of the task force charges
  + Work to be as inclusive and representative as possible
* Are there examples where other institutions have implemented actions based on recommendations for mental health and wellbeing?
  + Some examples like Vanderbilt, Illinois and Minnesota have strong mental health strategic plans
  + Most do not have strategic plans - only have reports and recommendations without implementation
* What has changed in regards to making additional mental health resources available for students?
  + Task forces are expected to identify additional resources needed - then work will be done over the summer to get resources in place

The board of trustees and President Whitten have expressed support for more resources

1. Updates from Dean Wimbush
   * + Dean Wimbush had to leave early - will be on the agenda at next meeting
2. Campus-specific updates from Deans Blum and Daleke
   * + Discussing leave policies with schools at IUPUI and IUB
     + Reviewing stipends - advocating for student resources
     + Reduced number of applicants for PhD students at IUPUI - 11% decrease - decreases across disciplines - don’t see the same decrease at IUB
     + Increase in domestic master’s students applicants at IUB - Decrease in international applicants
     + Overall enrollments are up at IUB - driven by professional master’s programs
     + Teaching Award - National Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools - awarded to Lin Lee Wong from IUB
     + Open town hall forums between deans and graduate students
   * Push from graduate workers coalition to have their union recognized
   * Health care issues discussed - mental health and wellbeing issues and concerns
   * Trying to find ways to increase stipend levels
   * Brought up issues with students housing, childcare, etc.
     + Students concerned that the previous meeting was rushed - is there a more thought through process moving forward?
   * Meetings are continuing over next few weeks for some schools - deans have met individually with groups of students - trying to improve the process
3. New Business— EC elections in April: call for nominations; committee final reports
   * + EC committee members (chair, co-chair, secretary) for 2022/23 will be voted on at next meeting
   * Only those serving through summer 2023 are eligible for these positions
     + Committee reports to be submitted no later than one week before the April meeting
   * Reports should include highlights of accomplishments and recommendations for work to be carried over or started next year
     + Awaiting responses from some committee members about IU online programs
4. Adjournment

*Next Meeting: April 18, 2022*