

IU Graduate Faculty Council

Final Report for AY 2016-17

*submitted to Dean James C. Wimbush by
Margaret E. Bauer, Chair of the Graduate Faculty Council
August 8, 2017*

Having re-formed and focused primarily on organizational issues of the Council in 2015-16, the Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) spent the 2016-17 academic year focusing on issues related to graduate education. Some of these issues included Title IX training for graduate students, problems of diversity & inclusion in graduate programs, and the utility of the minor for PhD programs. As these issues were largely discussed through the work of the four standing committees of the Council, this report is organized by committee. This report also highlights ongoing issues being discussed by the committees that have not yet risen to the level of policy decisions or recommendations.

Work of the Council, including Policy Decisions and Recommendations

The Academic Policy Committee reviews the policies that relate to all graduate programs, including those outlined in the front pages of the University Graduate School Bulletin. One policy issue discussed was whether non-tenure-track (NTT) faculty should be eligible for endorsement to direct dissertation projects. Concerns with endorsement of NTT faculty include the longevity of NTT faculty at the University, as these tend to be more fluid positions than tenure-track faculty positions, and the financial stability to support a multi-year dissertation project. The committee recommended that endorsement to direct dissertations be reserved for tenure-track faculty, with the possibility of exceptions on a case-by-case basis but not being automatically given. The Council unanimously approved the recommendation that endorsement to direct dissertations be restricted to tenure-track faculty.

Another policy issue raised by the Academic Policy Committee is that of retaining or eliminating the PhD minor; this issue was tabled last year to allow more time for discussion, as the effects of changing the minor would be wide-ranging throughout graduate programs. Some Council members felt strongly that the PhD minor is a hindrance to their programs, while others felt the minor serves a useful function and should be retained. This year, the committee developed and implemented a survey of department chairs and directors of doctoral programs to gather information across the university on the utility of the PhD minor. Results of the survey showed that most respondents favored retaining the PhD minor; there were little data to support removing the minor. The next discussion centered around whether the survey should be extended to all graduate faculty rather than just department chairs and program directors. Ultimately, no consensus was reached, and this issue was tabled until 2017-18.

The Academic Policy Committee recommended two additional topics for discussion next year. The first is to bring bulletins of various campuses in alignment regarding the number of credits of graduate non-degree course work that can be applied toward graduate degrees. The second concerns plagiarism in doctoral dissertations; the Council as a whole discussed this topic a few times during the year. A policy on how to screen for plagiarism may be needed, and the Council felt that the Academic Policy Committee should discuss in the coming year and make recommendations about who should be responsible for screening for plagiarism and how such screening is carried out.

The Awards Committee selected the recipients of several graduate awards, including Distinguished Masters Thesis awards (two given, one at IUPUI, one at IUB); Distinguished Dissertation Awards (two given, both at IUB); the Herman B Wells Award (given to student in IUB Sociology); the Adam W. Herbert Award (4 given, 3 at IUPUI, one at IUB); and the John H. Edwards Fellowships (two awards, one at IUPUI, one at IUB). The Awards Committee also worked with the University Graduate School's Graduate Fellowships and Grants Coordinator to

improve advertising of these awards so that all eligible candidates are aware of the awards and have appropriate time to apply. The Awards Committee requested that, going forward, the Diversity Issues Committee help review Adam W. Herbert Award candidates, which have a diversity component, although final decisions will still be made by the Awards Committee.

The Diversity Issues Committee examined efforts on IUB and IUPUI campuses toward recruiting and retaining a diverse graduate student body. Their report indicated that, while both campuses have a strong commitment to diversity, the majority of efforts were focused on programming initiatives rather than recruitment. The committee chair gathered several resources, particularly from graduate programs at Univ. of Michigan and Vanderbilt University, that offer guidelines for a more holistic review of graduate applications; implementing these approaches should increase the diversity of our graduate student body. These resources are posted in the Council's Canvas page.

The Graduate Initiatives Committee examined Title IX services and training at IUB and IUPUI for graduate students. They found that, although both campuses offer Title IX training, they vary in what is required and what is voluntary; the vendors for training exercises also vary. A key concern with all Title IX training is the appropriateness for graduate students, who are typically both students and responsible employees. Training geared toward undergraduates is not always appropriate for graduate students, and training for responsible employees does not cover student-specific circumstances. Finding a program that covers both graduate student and responsible employee training has been difficult. IUPUI is in the process of changing vendors for graduate Title IX training; IUB is planning to develop in-house training that should be more comprehensive for the needs of graduate students. The committee recommended assessing the new training programs at both campuses and making recommendations of best practices for this training.

Attached is the roster of the 2016-17 GFC, including committee assignments and officer positions. At our final meeting of 2016-17, new officers were elected for the 2017-18 Council. The Chair and Vice-Chair remain the same; the Secretary will be Mary Bourke, replacing Jennifer Lentz. Given that half the Council will be newly elected in the Fall, the decision was made to hold elections for most committee chairs at the first meeting in the Fall 2017 semester. The one exception is the chair of the Awards Committee, whose work begins before the first GFC meeting. Kristy Sheeler was elected to chair this committee. On behalf of the Graduate Faculty Council, we look forward to another productive year in 2017-18.

Graduate Faculty Council Roster 2016-17

Council Member	Unit	Committee Service
Bauer, Margaret	IN-1	Executive (Council Chair), Diversity Issues
Lentz, Jennifer	BL-3	Executive (Council Secretary), Awards
Calloway-Thomas, Carolyn	BL-2	Executive (Council Vice-Chair)
Sheeler, Kristina	IN-2	Academic Policy (Chair)
Johnson, Claudia	BL-1	Academic Policy
Massey, Anne	BL-4	Academic Policy
Smith, Troy	BL-1	Academic Policy
Winship, Andrew	IN-4	Academic Policy
Zinner, Susan	NW	Academic Policy
Sundt, Jody	IN-5	Awards (Chair)
Chan, Rebecca	IN-1	Awards
Helton, Edwina	EA	Awards
Hill, Raquel	BL-8	Awards
Shepherd, Terry	SB	Awards
Von Ah, Diane	IN-3	Awards
Ashburn-Nardo, Leslie	IN-6	Diversity Issues (Chair)
Bourke, Mary	KO	Diversity Issues
Finkel, Deborah	SE	Diversity Issues
Ochoa, Christiana	BL-4	Diversity Issues
Smith, Malcolm	BL-5	Diversity Issues
Georgiadis, Millie	IN-1	Graduate Initiatives (Chair)
Bidwell, Joseph	IN-1	Graduate Initiatives
Fleming, Damian	FW	Graduate Initiatives
Halloran, Vivian	BL-6	Graduate Initiatives
MacKay, Ellen	BL-7	Graduate Initiatives
McManus, Patricia	BL-2	Graduate Initiatives