

Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council

October 19, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Present: William Allegranza, Janice Blum, Dena Carson, Erika Cheng, Dakota Coates, David Daleke, Jill Fehrenbacher, Dominique Galli, Spencer Hall, Tabitha Hardy, Ed Hirt, Lisa Hoffman, Krista Hoffmann-Longtin, Jason Baird Jackson, Lee Kahan, Jon Macy, Larry Moss, Ben Perrin, Gloria Preece, Jeff Rutherford, Natalia Rybos, Nathan Schmidt, Scott Shackelford, Pravina Shukla, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Vincent Starnino, Justin Williams, James Wimbush

Agenda

1. **Approval of minutes** from GFC meeting on September 21 2019 ([link to minutes](#))

2. Updates from the Deans

Covid update: Dean Wimbush began by providing an update on COVID. He reported that the research restart committee is doing well in getting labs up and running during the pandemic. He then reminded us that students will be sent home on November 20th for Thanksgiving recess and not return to campus until February 8th.

CAPS usage and resources: Next, he mentioned that Denise Hayes, who is in charge of CAPS on the IUB campus, reported that CAPS is down 25% in terms of visitors this term. Moreover, they have been struggling to provide necessary services to students. Two counselors have recently quit at CAPS. In particular, the LGBTQ+ community has been struggling. An IU student was recently killed when visiting Alabama, a crime that may have been race-related.

Disparity Emergency Fund: He noted that the \$1 million Pandemic Disparity Emergency Fund had already been exhausted. The fact that these funds went so quickly attests to the needs of members of our community.

Dakota raised a question about additional emergency funds. He voiced concerns raised by several graduate students about financial aid over the winter term. There were reports that financial aid would be delayed if a student was not registered. Dean Wimbush said he had no knowledge of this and would check into it.

Spencer chimed in about the potential aggregation of emergency funds for both undergraduate and graduate students, which would be distributed by the [Student Advocates Office](#). He also noted that NIH funds are available for diversity training supplements, and so researchers can still apply for these. Spencer suggested the possibility that IU might bolster applications for these supplements.

Election matters: He then discussed the concerns many have about the upcoming election, and the likely disruptions that may occur regardless of the outcome. Diversity and Inclusion Advocate safety is a particular concern, as individuals have been receiving responses from various right-wing groups. President Trump has declared that diversity training programs be halted. IU's position on this is that we are waiting for further guidance on this matter, and at present it is business as usual. IU is not saying anything or issuing any statements calling attention to themselves in this regard.

Krista voiced concerns over the safety efforts surrounding the upcoming election. Are these listed somewhere and how are people being informed about them. She expressed particular concerns

about firearms on campus and potential voter intimidation. Dean Wimbush replied that there is no open carry on campus, and the students' primary voting site is in Franklin Hall on campus.

Newsletter: Finally, he reported that the newsletter is going out today. It talks about use of the GRE for graduate admissions. It provides guidance about appropriate use of GRE scores, if it is used by various units.

4. Discussion items

A. *Overview of the Bulletin process -- Jeff*

Jeff Rutherford navigated us through the Graduate School Bulletin. It consists of two parts: (1) an Academic Policy section (the front matter); and (2) the Academic Curricula. The GPC's Academic Policy Committee oversees revisions and updates to the Academic Policy section. There are both pdf and web versions of this Academic Policy section, and changes to both need to be approved annually. New changes made to this section won't appear until next year. In the Spring, programs submit their revisions to their Curricula for that second section. [Graduate Bulletin](#)

B. *Communication networks --- Spencer*

In an effort to facilitate better communication, Spencer reported that he has begun building contact lists for the DGSs and Grad Program advisors for the Bloomington campus. Dean Daleke reported that he already had a contact list for IUB and Janice has a list for IUPUI. They both reported that they would provide these lists to him.

C. *Advisory on suspension of graduate programs -- David, Janice*

Dean Daleke discussed suspension of graduate programs occurs due to financial reasons. It involves the suspension of admissions to the program, not termination of the program. The university is cautious about doing this because it has serious repercussions. Programs seeking to do this have to indicate an end date, a justification or rationale for the suspension, how many students are currently enrolled in the program, and how it might affect minors and other students taking their courses. This request is then forwarded to the Campus Curriculum Committee, and if approved, is added to the Graduate Bulletin. For these reasons, this practice is discouraged.

Currently, 5 programs in COAS are considering this.

Jeff Rutherford manages this process, though it is a rare occurrence. There is no policy in the Graduate Bulletin currently on this. If a program were to consider termination of their program altogether, this request goes to the state, and efforts to re-open later are a very involved process.

In the service of time, we then skipped ahead to #5 on our agenda.

5. Standing reports from regional campuses

East (Natalie) -- IU-East needs to develop infrastructure for grad programs.

Natalie is going to attend the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) conference in December this year. The registration fee is \$250, but you get a group discount if others go.

Kokomo (Gloria) -- IU-Kokomo partners with other regional campuses for collaborative programs. Their major concern has been with regard to international students.

Northwest (Bill) --- IU-Northwest has same issues as IU-Kokomo.

South Bend (Lee) -- IU-South Bend's grad enrollment is up this year, which is very exciting for them. However, they share concerns with infrastructure as well as concerns regarding the timing of funding. Graduate fellowships for regional campuses are not decided until August, which is bad timing for recruitment. Lee asked if funding decisions could be moved earlier, to coincide with recruiting season. Dean Daleke said that Bianca could look into this issue of the timing of graduate fellowship awards. Lee mentioned that there is no person in admissions that is responsible for graduate students only, a situation that overburdens grad directors.

Southeast (Lisa) – IU-Southeast also has grad program enrollment up 25% this year. They share funding concerns as well, and have additional concerns with the success of online collaborative programs, which threaten the future of other existing programs.

6. Standing Reports from Committees.

(A) Academic Policy Committee (APC) – Chair: Scott

(i) Scott reported that the APC met this last month, and finalized the Language for PhD Minor policy, which is now ready to be put to a vote. The vote was taken and the policy was unanimously approved, receiving **18/18 positive votes**.

(ii) The APC also discussed the Leave policy for graduate students. At this point, they are in the process of gathering information from other schools.

(B) Awards Committee -- Chair: Gloria

Gloria reported that the Awards Committee is in the process of awarding the University Distinguished Masters Theses awards. Three will be awarded this year.

(C) Diversity and Equity Issues Committee (DEIC) – Chair: Dominique

(i) Dominique reported that the DEIC was considering new agenda items, in lieu of suggestions raised by Justin, their graduate student rep.

(i) She said that she got in touch with Nan Harvey, who will provide data to us regarding Recruitment and Retention by the end of November. She expressed that the DEIC may conduct a follow-up survey of program directors in the Spring, in hope of disseminating a list of best practices in the near future.

(iii) She provided an update on the GRE and other testing in graduate programs.

(iv) Finally, the DEIC will get access to Financial Health surveys and report on their findings.

(D) Graduate Initiatives Committee (GIC) and the Mental Health Task Force (MHTF, Larry)

Jill mentioned that there was one key issue that we needed to vote on, namely, student representation of committees. Last year, we proposed changes to the bylaws to have grad student reps on all standing committees but Awards. We currently have two grad student reps on the DEIC, one from IUB and one from IUPUI. But several issues were raised concerning voting rights of these grad student reps: Would this constitute a conflict of interest? Several proposals were made, but further discussion pointed out logistical issues that need to be worked out further (such as when this would be implemented – immediately vs. next year; would these new members also attend GPC meetings as well as committee meetings).

In the service of time, the issue had to be tabled until our next meeting.

6. Reports from Student Representatives – Dakota, Justin

Unfortunately, we ran out of time, and we did not have these reports.

7. New Business –

No new business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

A request was made to make sure that we have materials ahead of time in anticipation of any vote.