

Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council

September 21 2020

1:00 – 2:30 pm

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

Agenda

1. Introductions of members – We spent the first few minutes of the zoom meeting introducing ourselves to each other.
2. Approval of minutes from GFC meeting on 20 April 2019 ([link to minutes](#))
3. Updates from the Deans

Dean Wimbush began by welcoming the new members to the GFC. He expressed his appreciation for everyone's help in preparing IU for the Fall, with a special shout-out to Janice Blum and David Daleke, as well as to Jeff Rutherford and Tabitha Hardy and Dakota Coates. He believes that our graduate students feel supported.

Next, he reviewed several initiatives: (1) Research Restart – faculty and student research has been able to proceed without shutdown; (2) Racial Justice Research Fund – created to provide funds for research into this topic; (3) Pandemic Health Disparity Fund – to help students adversely affected by COVID; (4) Anti-racist agenda for the university.

Janice Blum reported that things have been going very well. We have been extending deadlines for students, and this flexibility has been appreciated. She also reminded us that the deadline for submissions for PhD Dissertation Awards are coming up.

David Daleke reported that to facilitate degree completion during the pandemic, changes in policy were advocated to allow for remote defenses. So far, the feedback on this change has been very positive.

4. Discussion items

A. Spencer Hall reviewed our overall charge from the University Graduate School website and alerted us to all of the resources at our disposal on the GFC site. File folders there will include everything we discuss.

[Canvas site](#), [Website](#), [Graduate Bulletin](#), [ByLaws](#), [Constitution](#)

B. Dena Carson then outlined the membership of the various GFC Committees for the coming year and we elected the committee chairs for each committee. For the APC, Scott Shackelford was approved as chair by GFC vote. For the GIC, Jill Fehrenbacher was approved as chair. For the DEIC, Dominique Galli was approved as chair. Finally, for the Awards committee, Gloria Preece was approved as chair. :

C. Spencer Hall then reviewed the committee charges ([bylaws](#)) and [2019-2020 year-end report](#).

Specifically, he discussed [strategic emphases](#) for each committee for the 2020-2021 academic year (taking a COVID first approach).

For the APC, some unfinished business to be taken up by this year's committee include the policy on minors, leave policy, and English proficiency procedures for international students.

For the DEIC, unfinished business included analysis of the Graduate Student Financial Health survey conducted on the Bloomington campus ([link to survey](#)). The details and logistics of this survey were discussed. Due to COVID, it was delayed until Fall 2020, was launched last week, and will finish up November 1.

So far, Dakota reports that 400 responses have been received. Additional topics for consideration by the DEIC include existing recruitment data analysis and GRE use across the university.

For the GIC, unfinished business focused on the Mental Health Task Force. Larry Moss reviewed the progress on the creation of this task force and delineated that they have 5 committees. The task force is open for people who would like to get involved.

Tabitha asked whether the Pandemic Health Disparity funds could be used for this task force. Dean Wimbush said no, that those funds were earmarked for different uses.

The GIC will also discuss the possibility of adding graduate student representation on our GFC committees and if so whether they will have voting rights. Finally, this committee will be responsible for updating and republishing bylaws if necessary.

D. Spencer Hall discussed ways to enhance communication strategies by GFC members with our constituents. Discussion ensued as to the nature of our constituents, and there was agreement that DGSs and Graduate Advisors in our respective units would be our primary targets to disseminate information. We discussed creation of listservs for each unit. Several members raised questions as to how we determine which departments are part of our units. Jeff Rutherford reported that the unit breakdowns are listed at the end of the bylaws. Spencer also alerted us to newsletters from Dean Wimbush as well as the GFC [website](#) as ways to communicate.

Spencer also outlined a few potential issues concerning graduate students that we might advocate for, including OIS/mandatory fees, marketing of programs, international students, and zoombombing. He encouraged anyone to contact him with new items to add.

5. Standing Reports from Committees – at this first meeting, there were no reports from these committees. However, going forward, each month we will have standing reports from each of these committees.

- Academic Policy Committee (APC)
- Awards Committee
- Diversity and Equity Issues Committee (DEIC)
- Graduate Initiatives Committee (GIC) and the Mental Health Task Force (MHTF, Larry) -
- Reports from Student Representatives ([GPSG](#))

Spencer Hall reported briefly about a letter he sent to the Deans in August 2020 with concerns about testing procedures. He received a reply from Provost Robel.

Jeff Rutherford raised the issue of a review of bylaws concerning voting by members who cannot make meetings. In the past, committee members were expected to find substitutes to come to meetings in their stead if they were unavailable for extended periods. It was decided that this would be an issue for the GIC.

6. New Business – no new business was discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.