

**Indiana University Graduate
Faculty Council
January 25, 2021
3:00 – 4:30 pm**

Present: William Allegrezza, Janice Blum, Dena Carson, Erika Cheng, Dakota Coates, David Daleke, Alyson Essex, 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, Natalia Rybas, Nathan Schmidt, Scott Shackelford, Pravina Shukla, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Vincent Starnino, Kyoko Takanashi

Agenda

1. Introductions – Welcome extended to our new member, Kyoko Takanashi, IUSB, who is replacing Lee Kahan. Welcome also extended to our new graduate representative, Alyson Essex, IUPUI, who is replacing Justin Williams.

2. Minutes from the GFC meeting on 14 Dec 2020 were approved - [link to minutes](#) | [link to recording](#)

3. Updates from Dean Wimbush

(A) Dean Wimbush discussed the efforts of Jon Nieto Phillips to have diversity at every level, including graduate programs. He mentioned the initiatives currently in place at IUB and IUPUI in this regard.

(B) Dean Wimbush said that the Mental Health Task Force report had not yet been discussed by the Deans. He indicated that some of the items such as emergency funding for graduate students in need and the hiring of additional counselors would be difficult, as we simply don't have the funds for such expenditures. He is hopeful that new funding from the CARES Act and other initiatives may be forthcoming. Nevertheless, he expressed that other items that don't require funding are things that we should be able to handle (such as teaching, mentoring, webinars, workshops).

Spencer asked when the next Deans meeting was scheduled. It looks like there is one scheduled next week (February 8th?). But at the current time, there is no specific timeline in place for implementation of any of the items included in the MHTF report.

4. Standing Reports from Committees

(A) **Mental Health Task Force (MHTF)** – Co-Chair: Larry – Updates on phase I from James and vision for phase II from Larry

Larry expressed that he was pleased to hear Dean Wimbush's comments. The final MHTF report is now available, and he is happy to send it to anyone interested. We previously saw a draft, and several edits have been made.

Larry laid out the committee's plan going forward. First, they would like to survey the needs of the counseling centers on the various campuses to get their suggestions. Second, they would like to see what changes have occurred in the mental health needs of graduate students with recent events. Finally, they would like to take a broader view of their goals, asking what would count as success in mental health. What role would something like mindfulness training play, for example? Larry closed by asking Dean Wimbush what he would want from them.

Dean Wimbush responded that they are asking the right questions, and they should continue down this path of trying to come up with solutions to fill the voids that exist.

Dominique asked what resources we are talking about here. Dean Wimbush replied that only cash requests are being entertained currently, not changes to the base budget. Dakota and Alyson reported that their GPSG committees are taking a more university wide approach to solutions outside of CAPS. Alyson mentioned that there were concerns particularly about protecting students who switch mentors. Janice reported that CAPS has been underfunded for years now, with low staffing levels and long wait times.

Dakota had to leave the meeting early, so he presented his Student Representative report and update on IUB's GPSG's projects and concerns now. He reported that the IUB GPSG has passed a resolution on more transparent offer letters to students, spelling out more clearly the fees, financials, expectations for work hours, etc.). Janice reminded us that these letters must be legally compliant. Rebecca asked if there would be information about mental health resources included in these letters.

(B) Academic Policy Committee (APC) - Chair: Scott – [Leave guidance](#) | credit validation

Scott presented a supplement drafted by Jason which serves as a guidance document to academic deans for the academic leave policy. This would be disseminated in the near future. Nathan asked what the implications currently are for health insurance if a student takes a leave. Janice mentioned that she thought students lose their health insurance while not enrolled. Dean Daleke confirmed that statement. Scott stated that the financial ramifications need to be spelled out here, maybe with links or included parenthetically in the document itself. Discussion ensued about how best to accomplish this balance between conciseness and providing specifics about the costs of taking such leaves. Following this discussion, Scott asked a procedural question – does this modified supplement then go to Jeff? Jeff said that it is up to the GFC to decide. Jason reminded everyone that this is just a guidance document from the APC committee, which can be used by the deans to communicate suggestions to departments and programs. We do not have a lot of teeth here – force anyone to comply with this.

Finally, Scott reported that the APC is discussing the credit validation issue. No resolution has been determined yet. The committee is asking whether the current numbers are good -- 5 years? 7 years? Increasing the flexibility of these numbers allows more options. Janice mentioned that IU Online has explicitly asked for us to revisit this issue.

(C) Awards Committee - Chair: Gloria

No report. Gloria was not present at the meeting.

(D) Diversity and Equity Issues Committee (DEIC) - Chair: Dominique – [URM data struggles](#) | [other projects](#)

Dominique first welcomed Evelyn and Alyson, our new student representatives. She then detailed her struggles to access the URM data. The bottom line is that we still do not have access to these data. The goal was to examine these data to see who is best at recruitment and retention of students, identify some best practices, and improve efforts to retain our best undergraduates to stay at IU for graduate school. Dean Daleke stated that the Graduate School has posted their data analyst position, which has not been stable for some time. Furthermore, they have shift to a new

product this year, the WebAdmit vendored system. Hopefully, these transitions will go smoothly and we can get access to the URM data soon.

(E) Graduate Initiatives Committee (GIC) - Chair: Jill: textbook and syllabus timing ([resolution](#))

Jill discussed the GPSG resolution to have textbook and syllabi posted in a more timely manner. The Higher Education Act says these should be posted, but it turns out that IU does not have a policy on either one. A single policy should be in place. How would we get the message of this new policy out? Notification was supposedly sent out on Canvas, but did anyone see it?

Dean Daleke reported that he took this resolution to Eliza Pavalko and Kurt Zorn. A blast was sent out from Eliza's office.

(F) Check in on the UGS-GPSG-COAS-GFC financial health survey (David, Scott, Jill, Dominique)

Data cleaning of this financial health survey data is going on now. This is joint effort of many groups, including the Graduate School, the GPC, the GPSG, and the COAS. Scott will be the communique for this project. Dominique has both IUB and IUPUI data.

5. Standing reports from regional campuses

East (Natalia) -- Natalia asked about any updates on the deadline for graduate fellowships for the regional campuses. She also asked for more information about how decisions are made for this fellowship. Dean Daleke encouraged her to address questions to Bianca Evans

Kokomo (Gloria) -- not present

Northwest (William) -- no report

South Bend (Kyoko) -- Following up on Natalia's report, Kyoko suggested that there should be a joint meeting of all regional campuses about the graduate fellowships. Dean Daleke agreed that this was a good idea.

South East (Lisa) -- nothing to add

6. Reports from Student Representatives - *Dakota, Alyson*

Dakota gave his report earlier. Alyson mentioned that they have not met since Winter Break. Their general assembly would be meeting soon. She discussed their composting initiative and other sustainability initiatives that the IUPUI GPSG has in place, including the addition of locally owned businesses to their vendor list.

7. Discussion items

(A) UGS Mentoring Team – report from Katie Kearns (@ 4 pm) (Please [preview questions posed by Executive Committee to Katie and Abegunde](#))

Katie Kearns was not present, so Dean Daleke presented today. He mentioned that Abegunde was leading this project, but that it needs to be a Graduate School wide project, not just an IUB one. He suggested that Roper and Abegunde should come and present to us. Abegunde has received funding to create a Mentors Handbook, including mentorship guidelines with an emphasis on mentoring underrepresented students. Discussion ensued

about whether we would have mentorship programming, and if so, would it be a requirement for graduate faculty mentoring. Rebecca asked what would happen if a faculty member is not in good standing. Dean Daleke said that the Dean has the ability to exercise recourse for egregious behavior. Further discussion debated the limits in making this seem punitive and getting buy-in from faculty. Ed mentioned that other organizations have tried to frame it more positively and given incentives like badges to designate those who have taken training courses or completed the programming. The issue had to be tabled in the service of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm.