

**Indiana University**  
**Graduate Faculty Council (GFC)**  
**Monday, 19 April 2021**  
**3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**Present:** Janice Blum, Dena Carson, Erika Cheng, Dakota Coates, Alyson Essex, Jill Fehrenbacher, Margaret Graves, Spencer Hall, Tabitha Hardy, Devon Hensel, Ed Hirt, Lisa Hoffman, Jason Baird Jackson, Jon Macy, Larry Moss, Ben Perrin, Jeff Rutherford, Natalia Rybas, Beth Samuelson, Nathan Schmidt, Scott Shackelford, Pravina Shukla, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Kyoko Takanashi, James Wimbush

## Agenda

### 1. Introductions

2. **Approval of minutes** from GFC meeting on 8 March 2021 - [link to minutes](#) | [link to recording](#)

### 3. Updates from Dean Wimbush

#### (A) New President of the IU System

Dean Wimbush began his updates by mentioning our new president, someone with lots of energy. She has created a solid track record in the area of diversity and inclusion at her previous institutions (Georgia, Kennesaw State). John Applegate will serve as interim Provost starting July 1. He is someone who has been a great colleague and friend, so we will be in good hands.

#### (B) Method of communication: *Sales Force*

The Dean was also part of a meeting on [sales force CRM](#), where there was an in depth discussion about what our programs are facing regarding the resource crunch.

- CRM represents a tool available to us, and the university has made a big investment in this tool.
- Soon, we should get a person in place to optimize the use of this tool.
- The focus has been on IUB, so the Dean raised questions about its use at IUPUI.
- There is a steering committee in place, as well as a task force in place, which will start meeting next week.

#### (C) Upcoming Verdict

The Dean also mentioned that the Derek Chauvin verdict will be announced soon. Given the uncertainty, we need to be prepared in the event that protests and violence follow.

#### (D) Thanks

In closing, the Dean expressed his thanks to everyone on the GFC, starting with Spencer Hall and the chairs of the committees. Your leadership and work is much appreciated by those at the Graduate School.

### 4. Updates and standing reports from regional campuses

#### (A) Update on fellowship concerns on regional campuses – Kyoko - [summary](#)

Kyoko and her group of regional campus reps met with [Bianca Evans](#) about the regional campus fellowships.

- *Questions:* The group had 4 questions about how the awards are decided, the timeline, which programs are included, and why there was no website devoted to these fellowships (in other words, how do people find out about them?).

- *Source of funds:* We learned that these fellowships were created by cash funding by Dean Wimbush's office in 2013/14. There is no base budget for it, but the funding is requested each year. It is money the campuses already provide (so they are essentially getting it back). That is why there is no website.

- *Flexibility and ability to optimize*: Janice raised a question: is this really true? Dean Wimbush reported that we can fix this so that information about these fellowships is available on our website. Moreover, he said that we can adjust the timing of the fellowship to work best for the regional campuses.

- *Who decides winners of these fellowships?* Decisions about the winners of these fellowships are made by a group of IUB faculty. It would certainly seem advisable for the awards committee to include members of regional campuses.

- *Communication challenges*: Further discussion suggested that we should announce these fellowships to the regional reps/DGSs or whoever who serves in administrative positions to oversee graduate programs and funding on the different regional campuses. It was noted that some campuses don't have such a person in place.

- *A Committee for Regional campuses? (To be continued...)* Discussion ensued about whether there should be a regional campus committee. This is something that we should definitely discuss in the future; however, Kyoko reported that we are not ready to do this at the moment.

- *Invitation from UGS Deans*: Janice and Dean Daleke emphasized that they were both happy to help out the regional campuses, and asked them to please feel free to reach out to them.

#### **(B) Regional Reports - East (Natalia), Kokomo (Gloria), Northwest (William), South Bend (Kyoko), South East (Lisa)**

No additional regional campus reports were made.

### **5. Reports from Student Representatives - Dakota, Alyson**

#### **(A) Update on IUPUI's GPSG's projects and concerns – Alyson**

- *Food banks*: Alyson reported that her group has been making donations to food banks.

- *Awards for students*: She also mentioned that IUPUI recently honored the 50 top professional students on campus in a virtual ceremony, which the Deans attended.

- *Future*: She closed by reminding us that she will be here next year and will be participating in GFC again.

#### **(B) Update on IUB's GPSG's projects and concerns – Dakota**

- *Take on the incoming President*: Dakota reported that he met the incoming president and asked her about her stance on student experience and student engagement. He said he felt very good about her. Someone on the GPSG team knew her from her time at Michigan State. He feels like IU will be in great hands.

- *Goodbye and thanks*: Dakota reminded the committee that he will be graduating and leaving, so he will not be here next year. The committee expressed their appreciation for all that Dakota has done throughout this year.

### **6. Standing Reports from Committees**

#### **(A) Academic Policy Committee (APC) - Chair: Scott – [revalidation vote](#)**

- *Next year's tasks for the APC*: Scott mentioned two main areas that will be action items for next year: (1) applying credit from graduate credentials to other programs; and (2) FX policy for grad students.

- *Revalidation vote*: The APC's last main action item for the AY concerns revalidation of courses. The

committee considered several questions.

- \* The current timeline is 5 years for masters degrees and 7 years for PhDs. Should this be revisited and revised? How should any changes best be implemented?
- \* Scott admitted that a lot of the pressure to consider this issue is coming from IU Online.
- \* The committee recommended that we keep timelines as they are at present, but solicit input on how the current timelines are working, going forward.
- \* This issue should continue to be discussed in the future, but with the benefit of more data.
- \* A vote was taken and the committee recommendation was approved.

- *Possible future Bulletin updates on revalidation*: A suggestion was made to provide an opportunity for documented professional experience to the Bulletin, which already includes items that could help guide the revalidation process.

## **(B) Awards Committee - Chair: Gloria**

Gloria was not present at the meeting, but Margaret reported that there was nothing new to report from the Awards Committee.

## **(C) Diversity and Equity Issues Committee (DEIC) - Chair: Dominique**

Dominique was not present at the meeting. Rebecca reported that the DEIC had not met since our last meeting, but had completed its final report and have a list of to-do items for next year.

## **(D) Graduate Initiatives Committee (GIC) - Chair: Jill**

Jill reported that the GIC did not meet since our last meeting, but the committee has a list of to-do items for next year, focusing particularly on faculty mentoring.

## **7. Preparing for GFC in 2021-2: [Bylaws](#) | [Constitution](#)**

### **(A) Final reports – Spencer – [GFC final report \(draft\)](#)**

based on: [APC final](#) | [DEIC final](#) (with [App. 3](#)) | [GIC final](#) | [Regional report](#) |  
GPSG – IUB ([for GFC](#) [FYI: [admin summary](#)]), [IUPUI](#)

- *Scope and purpose of the final GFS report*: Spencer reported that he asked for documentation from all committees, grad reps, etc., trying to capture what was done over the past year in our final report and to have action points ready for next year.

- *On the future of the MHTF*: The Mental Health Task Force (MHTF) met today, trying to set an agenda of where to go from here. Larry raised the issue of where the MHTF stands and asked about its future.

\* **Key questions**: Will it be part of the GIC? Or just a part of the GFC more generally? Or beyond the GFC and a part of the University more generally? Whose domain is it? Where does it fall?

\* **Duplication of efforts?** We have new president. There are a number of groups doing things in this space, but things are not centralized. There is considerable worry that there is or could be duplication of effort, given the lack of awareness of what other groups are doing. A more centralized effort might make funding stretch further.

\* **A broader wellness committee for the GFC?** Discussion ensued about the possibility of adding a fifth committee to the GFC, one that could include both the MHTF and be devoted to student wellness more

generally, including food insecurity and mentoring as well. It was noted that the new president has expertise in telemedicine, so she might be very helpful in this regard.

- Spencer then led us through the draft of the final report:

\* **Changes to APC section:** We need to add a point about getting data on revalidation next year.

\* **Changes to DEIC section:** For the section on the DEIC, there needs to be some clarification about the financial health survey. Whose responsibility is this? Is it the MHTF or the DEIC? In addition, are we making recommendations about how to support URM or do we just want to share best practices?? We are not really in the position of telling people what to do, but rather just sharing information.

\* **Regional reps – a committee?** We also need to add the point that we discussed the possibility of creating a regional committee. Janice mentioned that maybe this could be an avenue to have regional faculty reps evaluate and award these fellowships, taking it out of Bianca's hands.

- **Fees and GPSG resolutions:** Dakota mentioned that the Board of Trustees are meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be discussing fee bundling, among other things.

## **(B) Executive committee election - Dena**

Dena led the discussion regarding election of the Executive Committee for 2021-22.

- **Nomination process:** Dominique is willing to serve as Chair and Margaret is willing to serve as Associate Chair. We canvassed for volunteers to serve as Secretary. Devon stepped up and was willing to serve in this position.

- **Outcome of vote:** A vote for these candidates for Executive Committee was unanimous.

- **Parting thanks to all:** Thank you to all of those who volunteered to serve in these important positions, and thanks to Spencer, Dena, and Ed for serving on the Executive Committee for 2020-21.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm.