**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**November 26, 2018**

**3:30 – 5:00 pm**

Present: Margaret Bauer, Bonnie Blazer-Yost, Janice Blum, Andy Buchenot, Dominique Galli, Tabitha Hardy, Alan Bender, Lessie Frazier, Lisa Gershkoff-Stowe, Stacie King, Mosapefoluioa Ladapo, Yan Liu, Jane McLeod, Massimo Ossi, Scott Shackelford, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Mary Waldron, Ken Guerra, James Wimbush, David Daleke, Jeff Rutherford, Mary Bourke, Edwina Helton, Scooter Pegram, Terry Shepherd, and Diane Wille

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| **TOPIC** | **ITEMS/DISCUSSIONS** | **OUTCOMES/DECISIONS** |
| Approval of minutes from Council meeting on October 22, 2018 |  | Minutes approved |
| Updates from the Dean | Janice Blum reporting for the Dean. Progress has been made in finding vendors for the new e-Application app. Several vendors have submitted bids. Many campuses were represented in the design of the app, and many of the committees met with the vendors. Members were able to ask questions about the product. At this point, purchasing is involved in the bid and making a final decision. It is hoped that a decision will be made by early January 2019 with a goal of having the application available for students enrolling in Spring 2020.  A second phase includes the development of an application used for recruitment. The Sales Force committee is exploring this phase. The committee has some overlap from the those involved in the application app.  It is possible that there might be a slight increase in the application fee. However, it is hopeful that Purchasing will negotiate a great price for the app and an increase would not be necessary.  It is not sure if the e-application would speed up the process for international students. It depends on the process for each campus. | Information only |
| Discussion Items | a. Lens on Graduate Student Mental Health Issues: Kate Selivanovitch reported that based on three studies that have been completed on the mental well-being of graduate students, graduate students have mental health issues unique to them. Sometimes it comes from the expectations of people working with them. Sometimes it is the difficulties of balancing school life with personal life. It is often a combination of the two when students try to maintain personal relationships and professional relationships. In a study conducted with 250 universities, graduate students across multiple disciplines are about six times more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression. The anxiety and depression are a result of their relationship with their PIs, and/or lack of support from their colleagues and their families. Many students are uncomfortable going to the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) for services because there is a perceived stigma associated with going somewhere to address mental health. Many graduate students also teach, and there is a possibility of seeing students they are teaching or seeing someone they have taught. Students often do not have the time to dedicate for their own well-being and sometimes it doesn’t merit going to a professional. CAPS does not have exclusive mental health workshops for graduate students. Peer support groups could be utilized for students to talk to their peers about their day-to-day lives. This would create a support system for graduate students. Workshops could be used to provide a place where students feel included and gain social support. There is a program on campus that is offering mental health first aid certification, which helps to identify students needing or seeking mental health support. Could something be developed for graduate students that is different than what is available from CAPS. The Graduate Initiative Committee has taken up this issue, and is at the information gathering stage. There does seem to be a graduate specific support that is separate from CAPS. Funding would be an issue and the higher administration would need to be involved to resolve cost issues.  b. Graduate Student Mental Health Activities: IU East has eight hour workshops on mental health for faculty and students. The First Aid Mental Health also provided resources.  c. Repository for Graduate Student Mental Health Information: A repository should be created for all the links the GFC is obtaining on mental health. Setting up a link in Canvas would provide a link to all of the resources is a possibility.  d. GRE & Diversity Recruitment – Refer to the Diversity Issues Committee | Information Only  Discussion: Providing adequate support for graduate students having mental health issues.  Information Only  Action: Setting up a repository in Canvas |
| Standing Reports from Committees | * Academic Policy Committee: The committee discussed the issue of how often academic policies should be revisited after they have been addressed. The three issues included: (a) was the policy adequately resolved, (b) what is the timeframe before the GFC could revisit or reconsider a policy, and (c) should there be any guidelines or proceedings when reconsidering a policy? Regarding the requirement that outside minors should be a requirement for the PhD, a review of the 2017 reports indicated a broad support for maintaining the policy, and the issue was resolved. Barring some major reason such as legality or greater good concern, a five-year timeframe before reconsidering a policy was supported. This was based on the timing of reviews of Deans and other senior personnel in university administration. The primary reason for the rule would be to ensure that the GFC time would not be spent deliberating an issue on an annual basis. The Academy Policy Committee will write a policy and bring it up at the next GFC meeting for consideration. There was follow-up discussion regarding eliminating the outside minor or allowing departments do determine whether a PhD should have an outside minor. Since membership is a two-year appointment, should the proposed timeline reflect the tenure of the membership? How frequently does the GFC want to revisit a previously discussed issues? How much time and effort does the GFC want to spend revisiting previously discussed issues? A possible guideline for revisiting an issue could be incorporated into the proposed policy, i.e., if the GFC voted to revisit an issue. The first two issues were unanimously approved by the APC, but the third issue, guidelines for reconsidering a policy, still needs to be discussed by the committee. * Awards Committee: There were six applications for the Distinguished Masters Award (not a monetary award), which members of the Awards Committee reviewed and made decisions about in October.  The recipients are:  1. Social Sciences for IU as a whole:  Miji Um 2. Social Sciences for IUPUI:  Miji Um 3. Social Sciences for IUB:  Muna Adem 4. Math/Sciences/Engineering for IU as a whole:  Julia Puglisi 5. Math/Sciences/Engineering for IUPUI:  Mawla Boaks 6. Math/Sciences/Engineering for IUB:  Julia Puglisi  * Diversity Issues Committee: The committee is in the process of drafting a survey regarding the GRE and plan on presenting the survey at the January GFC meeting. Jane participated in one of the Educational Testing Services webinar on diversity and graduate admissions. Universities have to be intentional about diversity, clear what their goals are, and have adequate funding to make it happen. Discussion focused on improving campus climate and environment, supporting graduate school centers, developing special assistance programs for graduate students who are caregivers of family members, offering workshops on inclusive pedagogy, and conducting post admissions surveys to ask questions that you cannot ask in an admissions essay. * Graduate Initiatives Committee: The GIC is at an information gathering stage regarding stipends that are awarded to graduate students. The committee is also gathering information on the mental health of graduate students. * Student Representatives: As a measure to reduced anxiety and depression in graduate students, IUPUI campus is providing space for yoga for the next semester. | Information Only  Discussion: Minor requirement for PhDs.  Action: The APC will continue to create a draft policy on revisiting policies.  Information Only  Information Only  Information Only  Information Only |
| New Business | None |  |
| Adjournment | 4:53 |  |