**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**February 18, 2019**

**3:30 – 5:00 pm**

Present: Alan Bender, Bonnie Blazer-Yost, Janice Blum, Mary Bourke, Linda Charnes, David Daleke, Lessie Frazier, Dominque Galli, Lisa Gershkoff-Stowe, Kenneth Guerra, Tabitha Hardy, Edwina Helton, Stacie King, Karen Kovacik, Yan Liu, Jane Mcleod, Landan Mintch, Massimo Ossi, Fred Pavalko, Scooter Pegram, Barbara Pierce, Patrick Rooney, Jeff Rutherford, Scott Shackelford, Terry Shepherd, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Liese Van Zee, Mary Waldron, Diane Willie, and James Wimbush

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| **TOPIC** | **ITEMS/DISCUSSIONS** | **OUTCOMES/DECISIONS** |
| Approval of minutes from Council meeting on January 28, 2019 |  | Minutes approved with corrections |
| Updates from the Dean | The Unicap System is on target for implementation by Fall 2019. We are working very closely with Boyd Bradshaw and Jim Kennedy with the implementation of IU Constituent Relationship Management (CRM), which is used to manage constituent data. Teams are currently meeting to determine what needs to be done to be ready for launch in the fall.  The financial and enrollment outlook over the next five to ten years for higher education is a concern. Institutions of higher education will have enrollment and financial challenges that will naturally come from enrollment declines that are projected. The Graduate School has been reallocating funds to take care of critical needs area. With the help of the IUPUI campus, the costs of hiring a graduate admissions and fellowship coordinator for the IUPUI Graduate Office was covered. This has been a critical need for quite some time and I am very pleased that the IUPUI campus was willing to partner with us on hiring someone for this critical position. Through reallocation and funding from the previous position, the Marketing and Communications position was funded without asking for additional funds.  The Herbert Summer STEM Scholarship program continues to be a very important program for us. The university funds this program and it has been a robust program. However, there have been additional funding needs identified, and those needs amount to about $30,000. Through reallocation, these needs will be funded without asking for additional funding.  We are starting to see funding shortfalls particularly on regional campuses that are already experiencing significant declines in enrollment. I just wanted to convey that we too are being sensitive to the current financial outlook and certainly the projected decline in enrollment. We are taking steps to be very efficient with the resources that we have to reallocate where needed so that we can continue to meet some of the needs that we have identified.  The Midwest Association of Graduate Schools announced that Miji Um from IUPUI received the 2018 Distinguished Thesis Award. Miji was a previous recipient of the Indiana University Graduate School Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award. | Information only |
| Discussion Items | a. Update from the CGS Session:  David Daleke attended the December CGS meeting and attended sessions on graduate student mental health. Frances Leslie (University of California Irving), Nance Roy (the JED Foundation), and Lisa Young (University of Calgary) presented sessions on graduate student mental health. Nance Roy’s presentation was shared with the GFC. The goal of the JED Foundation is to protect graduate student mental health. Some of the factors that may lead to poor mental health included poor work-life balance, competition/pressure for mentorship, financial concerns, isolation, and lack of social support. The presenters talked about their program and the approach they take to address graduate student mental health. They presented a framework that involves connecting with students, developing intervention skills for students who might be at risk, providing better services for student needs, and promoting better student health and behavior. They also addressed some strategies for helping students including a number of different life skills, social connectedness, identification of students at risk, and helping students find help. Other strategies include mental health and substance abuse services, better crisis management, and find ways to restrict means in which students might become involved with substance abuse or harm themselves. The JED Foundation might be useful as a resource if the GFC is looking for information on how to develop intensive programs.  The University of California Irving (UCI) did a very in-depth survey of students on graduate student mental health. They also used a standard scale for depression called College Breakthrough Series – Depression (CBS-D), which identifies the ranges of depression responders might be encountering. The survey confirmed the linkage between academic progress and life satisfaction and symptoms of depression. Overall, 73% of students have an overall positive life satisfaction. Some of the priorities of students for improving the graduate experience were mental health, improving financial resources, management, career development, housing, and academics. It was interesting that mental health, finances, and career development were the top three choices for students since the GFC is addressing all three of those. Financial concerns were at the top of the list for depression. UCI also concluded that social and departmental support could mitigate the negative risk factors, especially financial and departmental bias issues. UCI created a position for a clinically trained counselor for their graduate division office who would perform non-clinical services for students. Finally, graduate schools provide a mechanism (bridge funding) to alleviate financial stress of students who were funded by grants where the PI has lost the grant. Funding of these activities could be problematic for campuses having declining enrollments and reduced budgets, although it is unclear how the enrollment cliff could affect graduate enrollment. Graduate enrollment is usually responsive to the market and economy conditions. Conversely, the undergraduate enrollment generally drives the budget, which could affect graduate schools.  b. GFC Elections for 2019 – 2020: GFC Elections are in March. The terms are almost up for those on their second year on the committee, and units will have to vote for new representatives. Barbara Pierce has already sent the information to Jeff Rutherford who will notify the units to nominate candidates. The GFC needs to set a timeline for voting. Because March is also the time campuses have spring break, the voting time has previously been set to the last two weeks of March. After the general election, the GFC will need to vote for members of the Executive Committee in April/May. The terms of Rebecca Slotegraaf (Chair), Barbara Pierce (Vice-Chair), and Terry Shepherd (Secretary) end this year. | Information Only |
| Standing Reports from Committees | * Academic Policy Committee: The Academic Policy Committee (APC) went back to revisit the proposed bylaw of revisiting academic policies after they have been addressed. However, there are no procedural bylaws, so adding a bylaw to address re-visitation would entail creating all of the bylaws in the first place. As a result, the committee is stepping back and rethinking the time commitment of this issue. Is it worth writing out procedures that take that much focus when there are other issues that need clarity like transfer credits from other institutions, and documenting and approving foreign language credit. The APC will consider this at the next meeting to determine where they want to focus their energy for the next two months. * Awards Committee: The Hebert Fellowship has not been finalized yet, but members of the committee did submit their rankings of applicants earlier this week. * Diversity Issues Committee: Based on the comments from the last council meeting, the Diversity Issues Committee (DIC) made some revisions to the GRE survey draft. The survey will be programmed in Qualtrics and will go out at the end of February to Chairs, Directors of Graduate Programs, or others who are responsible for graduate admissions. It will be due in the later part of March, which should give the committee time to have a report ready for the April meeting. Providing the survey to the appropriate individuals will be problematic since programs vary and an accurate administration database does not exist. The use of GREs for fellowships is another issue, and may vary across schools, colleges, and campuses. If the GRE is not part of the admissions requirement and students do not submit GRE scores, this could be problematic for students who apply for a fellowship that requires a GRE score. * Graduate Initiatives Committee: The Graduate Initiatives Committee (GIC) has been trying to gather information about stipends across all IU campuses. This has evolved into a working group that has included various stakeholders and groups to create a survey. The survey will be used to determine comparative information about graduate student stipends. The group has a nearly completed questionnaire. The GIC will review information gathered from the survey and will make some broad-based recommendations about stipends.   The GIC has also been looking at graduate student mental health. It is hoped that all the information gathered and discussed by the GIC and the GFC will be synthesized and they will write up a report with some final recommendations.  The GIC would also like to encourage the development of interdisciplinary graduate degrees.   * Student Representatives: The Bloomington Graduate Professional Student Government (GPSG) has been working with the College of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate Initiatives Committee and the Graduate School on developing a survey on stipend amounts, stipend distributions, and general financial health. The GPSG would like to know if students believed that they are receiving what they bargained from their fellowships.   The GPSG is also looking at the motor pool policy, which does not allow international students to borrow from the motor pool even if they are funded by their departments. About half of the big 10 universities have this type of policy, but half does not. There does not seem to be a good reason for the policy and GPSG has been working to get this policy amended.  The Health and Wellness Committee has been working hard on Grad Talks Events. Kate Selivanovitch has been working with counseling and psychological services to provide free group discussion sessions on mental wellness. They have had great attendance and great feedback.  The GPSG has a March 18th deadline for $26,000 of research and travel awards. They are encouraging students to apply. The funding rate is just under 2%, but we are hoping to get more funding in the future.  The Committee of Fee Review, chaired by Kenneth Guerra, provides a proposal for the Board of Trustees for how student fees are distributed. That committee is on track and ahead of schedule. The report should be done in the next month or two.  On March 1st we will have our elections for the new GPSG President. At the next month GFC meeting, Kenneth will have his successor attend the meeting with him.  International students have been getting charged extra fees unannounced, which has distressed students who cannot afford the additional fees. While this is not under the purview of the Fee Review Committee, GPSG has been working to make sure that it is clearly indicated when these fees are due.  IUPUI Graduate Professional Student Government: The IUPUI Graduate Professional Student Government is wrapping up the year with its once a year awards. They have the Elite 50 for April, and they are currently selecting their top students.  Seventy faculty were nominated for the outstanding mentor award through the student government.  The student government is continuing to focus on stress release and mental health through workshops. IUPUI has a mentoring center and they had over 30 faculty participate in an all-day mentoring workshop last Friday. Another 30-40 faculty are scheduled to participate in a culturally awareness workshop in early March. | Information Only |
| New Business | None |  |
| Adjournment | 4:38 |  |