GFC Minutes

1/23/17

Meeting began 3:30

J. Lentz recorder

In attendance

BL: Claudia Johnson, Ellen MacKay, Troy Smith, Jennifer Lentz, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Malcolm Smith, Raquel Hill, Jeff Rutherford, Adam Reneker, and David Daleke

IUPUI: Leslie Asburn-Nardo, Margaret Bauer, Joe Bidwell, Janice Blum, Becky Chan, Millie Georgiadis, Kristina Sheeler, Diane Von Ah, and Andrew Winship

Regional: Deborah Finkel, Terry Shepherd, Susan Zinner, Edwina Helton, Mary Bourke, Damien Fleming

1. Approval of minutes from Council meeting on November 28, 2016
2. Announcements
	* GFC roster changes
		+ Pat Foster retired. New rep is Troy Smith.
		+ Mary Bourke and Edwina Helton have returned from sabbatical; with Edwina’s return, we thank Laverne Nishihara, who was taking Edwina’s seat for Fall 2016, for her temporary service on the Council.
3. Updates from the Dean
	* Tabitha Hardy, who received her PhD at IUPUI, returned to IPUUI and joined the graduate office as assistant dean of graduate school. Official start is next week. Special thanks to Janice for managing without someone in this position.
	* Funding left over from the fellowship awards. Sent out another notice for part-time students ($2k) and full-time students ($4k) to award these remaining funds. Deadline of Jan. 27. Each department can submit up to 6 nominations. Email to ugs@indiana.edu.
	* Bicentennial campaign coming to close in 2020. Pleased because we now have endowed graduate fellowships. The number has increased to 150 fellowships, in the range of $25000 or $50000. Original goal was 50, and currently have 92. Also have graduate scholarships at a lesser amount. Goal for graduate scholarships is 2400; we have 2048. These are at doctoral level at IUPUI and IUB.
	* Application update. Both IUPUI and IUB application numbers are down by roughly 1/3 compared to last year, except in the physical and earth sciences at IUB. Down 50% in international applications, which is driving the reduction at IUB. This trend is observed at peer-institutions. One concern is that the international students do not always show up: they indicate they will come but do not arrive. This has been a problem in the business school. So, we are unsure whether to admit more students.
		+ Discussion: Janice mentioned that school/field of study impacts this – certain fields are up but most are down. International students may be afraid to come to the US. Problems also might be related to changes in application procedures, such as essays or a new app for applying. Raquel inquired about matriculation data, but the Dean mentioned that fall enrollment appeared fine, but not broken down by school. David also mentioned that there has been a decline in applications over the past 2-3 years. May be due to the economy getting better. Election might also be a factor, or that Indiana is not viewed as being welcoming. However, right now, it is unclear whether we should be concerned, especially as we don’t know if there is a significant decline in enrollment. The Midwest exchange, which reduces tuition, has likely helped undergraduate enrollments. Susan Zinner added (via email due to audio problems) that IUN, which is very near the IL border, participates in the Midwest Exchange and has found it successful for their students; the 150% tuition charged is very similar to tuition rates at nearby schools in IL.
4. Standing Reports/Updates from Committees
	* Academic policy committee
		+ Bring to a vote: recommend that endorsement to direct dissertation should be limited to TT faculty. Exceptions are always possible, so committee does not recommend allowing NTT automatic endorsement. Concerns about allowing NTT faculty to automatically direct dissertation – commitment to university, durations of their appointments, and potential lack of research currency. David mentioned that NTT faculty who are members of the graduate faculty can serve on dissertation committees, by policy. IUPUI still requires an exception to serve on a dissertation committee. Kristina: recommendation is only about the endorsement to direct dissertations. This practice is in effect, but is essentially not codified. The wording is “regular” faculty. David supports this recommendation that “regular” means TT. Council unanimously voted to support this recommendation.
		+ Committee is working on a survey about the PhD minor and breadth requirements. Survey will be send to graduate faculty and will assess their perception of the value of a minor and how faculty would feel about breadth requirements instead. Jeff will include policies of peer institutions; some institutions do have a minor.
	* Awards committee:
		+ Wells fellowship was awarded to Landon Schnabel, Dept of Sociology at IUB. 21 nominations: 12 from IUB, 9 from IUB. Used a modified scale adapted from NIH. Four finalists then discussed to select a winner. Landon has 13 publications and research focuses on gender inequality. Distinguished both academically and in service.
	* Diversity Issues:
		+ Coming attractions are to develop best-practice guidelines for recruitment and selection of students. Currently getting resources together and will include resources for the web with a goal toward increasing the diversity of the applicant pool.
	* Graduate Initiatives:
		+ Starting with Title IX policies; looking at current policies. IUSM students are currently required to take Haven Plus modules, which has a focus on sexual harassment. Was designed specifically for graduate students, but Haven Plus was not renewed. Modules are lengthy and doesn’t include discussion of being a supervisory role; students needing this could or would need to take employee training. Need to continue to have conversation about what should be in the modules for graduate students.
		+ Each campus has at least one Title IX coordinator, but need to know what to search for. Information should be easy to find but it is not. Discoverability is a problem; can’t easily find IU’s Title IX information using search engines. Ellen McKay is doing work to also improve visibility of the data, as the current form of presentation is also not accessible.
		+ Students need to know who to talk to. There may be an app in the works on one.iu.edu, but there isn’t one now. Stopsexualviolence.iu.edu is there, but not always easy to find without the correct search terms.
		+ Employee training is required of all TAs (university wide). However, students in the lab may need more than one type of training, as they have supervisory roles as well. Each school needs to take issues into consideration.
		+ Committee may assist Vice-chair Carolyn Caloway-Thomas with elections.
5. No new business.
6. Adjourned at 4:30pm