**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**April 15, 2019**

**3:30 – 5:00 pm**

Present: Margaret Bauer, Janice Blum, Mary Bourke, David Daleke, Lessie Frazier, Dominque Galli, Lisa Gershkoff-Stowe, Kenneth Guerra, Tabitha Hardy, Edwina Helton, Mircea Ivan, Stacie King, Karen Kovacik, Yan Liu, Landan Mintch, Massimo Ossi, Scooter Pegram, Barbara Pierce, Patrick Rooney, Jeff Rutherford, Scott Shackelford, Terry Shepherd Rebecca Slotegraaf, Liese Van Zee, Diane Willie, and James Wimbush

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| **TOPIC** | **ITEMS/DISCUSSIONS** | **OUTCOMES/DECISIONS** |
| Approval of minutes from Council meeting on March 18, 2019 |  | Minutes approved |
| Updates from the Dean | Dean Wimbush expressed his gratitude to the members of the Graduate Faculty Council for their services.  a. Annual Awards Ceremony: Last Wednesday, IUPUI had the Elite 50 Celebration. This is an event to recognize the top 50 graduate students at IUPUI. The event recognizes student achievements in scholarship and service.  This Friday, we will have the annual awards ceremony for CGS in Bloomington. We will be recognizing the many accomplishments of our students. We will also give out the Mentoring Award.  b. eApp and CRM: The eApp and the Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) are critical pieces of technology for our graduate programs. It provides for a more student-friendly type of interface for the graduate application. It will also provide the means to track the application progress after they have admitted to IU. We are still scheduled to have the Unicap System integrated and ready by September 3rd. The CRM will be ready later during the Fall semester. All programs will move toward the CRM, which might create some anxiety, but we will create plan created to facilitate communications with various groups and individuals at all levels. Everyone will be aware of what is happening, when things will happen, what they need to be doing, and with whom they need to be communicating. | Information only |
| Update on GFC Elections for 2019-2020 | Jeff Rutherford thanked everyone for securing nominees for the 2019-2020 GFC. Forty nominees were received from Indianapolis. One nominee from Bloomington declined, but all others are confirmed. We still need nominees from Indiana University South Bend and Indiana University Northwest. As soon as nominees are obtained from those campuses, the ballots could be distributed and will remain active for two weeks. If there are no nominees for IUSB and IUNW, we could move forward with the election, and have a separate election for those two campuses later. The deadline was set for Friday, April 19th, and the election will conclude two weeks later. | Information/Discussion |
| Year-End Summary Reports from Committees | a. Academic Policy Committee: The APC discussed how frequently the GFC should revisit specific academic policy changes. Since no rule is in place to amend the procedural guidelines, the AFC focused their energies on transfer credit language. Students can transfer 8 credit hours toward a Master’s degree. This was a holdover from when courses were four-credit hours. The credit hours were changed to 9, which was around 30% of the total credit hours for a Master’s Degree. This did not result in a change in policy.  Awards Committee: Members of the Awards Committee have selected Grace Karikari, a Ph.D. student in the IU-Bloomington School of Public Health, and Samantha Von Ende, a J.D. and Ph.D. student in the IU-Bloomington Mauer School of Law, as the winners of the 2019 John H. Edwards Fellowship.  There were seven applicants for that fellowship.    The criteria for the John H. Edwards Fellowship: *"Good citizenship, character, especially attitude toward public service and the likelihood of future usefulness to society, scholastic ability, intellectual capacity, and upon such other bases and qualifications, and in such manner, as the Trustees of Indiana University in their discretion and judgment may determine from time to time, but always without regard to consideration of  religion, creed, race, national origin, color, sex, or political affiliation."*  So far this academic year, the GFC Awards Committee has selected winners for four awards.  We have one more task:  Selection of the winner of the University PhD Distinguished Dissertation Award.  The plan is to receive nominations for that award around May 17 and to select the winner by around June 24.  Suggestion of the Awards Committee chair:  Given the significant amount of work involved in reviewing applicants and choosing winners for the various awards, perhaps in the future such efforts could be spread across all GFC members (e.g., with each GFC member being expected to be involved in selecting the winner of at least one fellowship/award)?  Also, it might make sense to have Duke Gatsos, who is “the Graduate Fellowships and Awards Coordinator” < <https://graduate.indiana.edu/about/staff/gatsos-duke.html> >, be responsible for coordinating the fellowships/awards-selection processes.  Diversity Issues Committee: The Diversity Issues Committee was charged with conducting a survey to learn how graduate programs use the GRE in admissions decisions. The survey was distributed to graduate program personnel for 133 programs on March 18, 2019 and again on March 26, 2019. The committee received 96 responses. Almost half of the participating programs use an admissions committee to make admissions decisions whereas just over one-third use some combination of DGS, heads of area groups, and an admissions committee. Most programs require that graduate applicants submit GRE scores, without just under half of those stating that they require GRE scores “sometimes.” Beyond the GRE, almost all programs require undergraduate transcripts, graduate transcripts (when relevant), letters of recommendation, and personal statements. Over 40% require writing samples.  Graduate Initiatives Committee: The Graduate Initiatives Committee considered two primary initiatives. The first was improving graduate student mental health across IU campuses. The second initiative was related to graduate student funding and the overall financial issues facing graduate students.  Based on our discussions during the year, the committee considered the primary challenges facing graduate students with mental health issues and accessibility to mental health services on campus. Currently, the number of free individual counseling sessions varies by campus. IUB students have 2 free sessions and at IUPUI, students receive up to 6 free sessions. Cost of subsequent sessions also varies. The possibility of including more free individual counseling visits and making available more counselors to reduce wait times was discussed. About 6-12 sessions is typical for cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), which has strong empirical support for treatment of depression and anxiety. Another significant concern is the fact that a graduate student seeking CAPS services now must visit their campus CAPS office as undergraduate students. To preserve privacy for graduate students, the committee suggested having a primary contact person in the graduate schools at IUB and IUPUI who can facilitate completing paperwork and making initial appointments with CAPS counselors. Graduate mental health will continue to be a topic for discussion for the 2019-2020 GFC.  The GIC was also tasked with gathering information about the current state of graduate student funding at IU to get a better understanding of the overall financial situation facing IU graduate students. This topic was also addressed by several other groups including the graduate and professional student government (GPSG), the College of Arts and Sciences, and the IUB Graduate School. Dean Daleke organized a committee consisting of representatives from these groups (including the GIC) to develop an extensive online questionnaire that is being sent to graduate students gather data on the current state of graduate student finances with the goal of getting an accurate snapshot of the financial health of our students. Work on this topic will continue into the next academic year as student responses are evaluated during summer 2019.  The GIC proposed a general statement in support of the IU Graduate School encouraging the development of even more interdisciplinary graduate degrees. This is motivated by comments from students seeking more cross-discipline degrees and also to keep up with a national trend toward degrees that cross traditional departmental expertise. | Information Only |
| Items for Discussion 2019-2020 | Graduate mental health will continue to be a topic for the 2019-2020 Graduate Faculty Counsel. A Task Force should be established in the fall semester that focuses on graduate students. The taskforce would focus on specific requirements and processes specific to graduate students.  Changing the time and day of the GFC meetings should be discussed with the 2018-2020 members over the summer.  For additional recommendation, see Year End Summary Reports. | Discussion: Continuing graduate mental health  Discussion: Changing day and time of GFC meeting. |
| Adjournment | 4:13 |  |