**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**September 16, 2019**

**2:00 – 3:30 pm**

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| Present: William Allegrezza, Lucas Adams, Beas Bhattacharya, Margaret Bauer, Janice Blum, Marlene Walk (for Deena Carson), Linda Charnes, David Daleke, Jill Fehrenbacher, Lessie Frazier, Dominque Galli, Edwina Helton, Amanda Diekman (for Ed Hirt), Mircea Ivan, Stacie King, Karen Kovacik, John Lacy, Larry Moss, Landan Mintch, Massimo Ossi, Benjamin Perrin, Gloria Preece, Jeff Rutherford, Scott Shackelford, Terry Shepherd, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Mary Waldron, Diane Willie, Vincent Starnino, Justin Williams, and James Wimbush |

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| **TOPIC** | **ITEMS/DISCUSSIONS** | **OUTCOMES/DECISIONS** |
| Approval of minutes from Council meeting on April 15, 2019 |  | Minutes corrected:  Bonnie Blazer, Linda Charnes, Mary Waldron were absent, “APC not AFC discussed”,and  GIC tasked with “gathering information”. Roster was correct at that point and changed over summer.  Minutes approved with corrections. |
| Updates from the Dean |  | Information Only |
| Discussion Items | a. Overall charge, structure—intro for new members. Our Canvas site: <https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1506992>; and  website: <https://graduatefacultycouncil.iu.edu>.  b. (GFC and) committee membership. Members have been assigned committees (see attached).  c. Elections of committee chairs — Dominique Galli (Vice Chair). Clarified that full council votes for chairs. Academic policy committee: Rebecca Slotegraaf (unanimous vote); Grad initiatives: Scott Shackelford (unanimous vote); Diversity & Inclusion: Stacie King (unanimous vote); Awards: Karen Kovacik (unanimous vote)  d. Committee charges for the year (related to this year’s Strategic Emphasis below [e.]):  Academic policy committee will review past and current policies regarding leaves of absence, and recommendations for the future (including resources needed to support any recommendations. Additional charges, as recommended in last year’s Final Report, include bringing to full Council vote previously discussed changes RE transfer credit (at the master’s level, from a maximum of 8 to 9 credit hours), if it is concluded that this change constitutes a policy change; and cross-program (and school) review of language proficiency procedures for international studies, with recommendation for how these procedures could be improved.  The Awards Committee will review applications for annual internal awards, as well as some external awards. The earliest of these is the Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award (which has a deadline on October 4th or 5th). The current UGS Fellowship Coordinator, Melissa O’Neill, will provide more information. Meanwhile, another recommendation from last year was to discuss options to reapportion the workload of the Awards Committee, especially awards requiring more time and effort to review. One option might be to have an outside member (from another GFC committee) participate as an additional reviewer; another option to invite members outside of GFC.  The primary charge of the Grad Initiatives Committee will be to examine data on graduate student financial well-being, including findings of a to-be-administered survey of graduate student financial health organized by an IUB working groups led by Dean Daleke, Associate Dean of the IUB Grad School; and from there, make recommendations. Since this survey is not yet finalized, this work might also include participation in development of related survey(s) for use beyond COAS. A separate charge is review of tuition/fee remission, including differences across programs/schools (e.g., number of credits, semester versus yearly limits).  The Diversity Issues Committee was recently renamed the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Among this year’s charges is to determine if we need a Council vote to the make the name-change official. Additional charges more closely related to our Strategic Emphasis (below) include gathering data to identify financial issues or challenges that may be unique to graduate students from underrepresented groups; and review of recruitment and drop-out data for graduate students from underrepresented groups.  e. Strategic Emphasis for this academic year: graduate student well-being, with focus on financial well-being. Financial stress was identified in last year’s works as key stressor and impediment to care. | Information & Discussion: Have there been changes to Bylaws since 2016? Margaret checked her records for possible changes in intervening years. She found a March 2018 update. Recalled changes Jeff: removing endorsement. Rebecca: making the MLK day permanent. Action: Mary will revisit and confirm next meeting.  Information Only  Election of Committee Chairs  Discussion: Mary notes that we did not make much headway in terms of review and recommendations regarding consequences of mental-health or other medical/family leaves while on a paid GA or AIsip. On language, Stacie notes that varying uses of TOFL are stressful, changes and lack of clarity in procedures for determining need for tests for proficiency and standards from other departments. Mary notes that Counseling is also struggling with this issue. Janice asks that all keep in mind that policies vary from IUB to IUPUI so be careful of global changes. Rebecca: we’ll need to find out the rules for the diff campuses and then determine if GFC can even make recommendations. Mary: the university sets a minimum but depts. can set higher standards. Mossimo explains that it is complex and messy in the School of Music and would like centralized guidance.  Discussion: Mary and Janice and David underscored importance of this committee and reminded us of ideas to reapportion awards committee work. Deadlines range from early November to the end of the year. David clarifies that the committee manages these competitions and can pull in other faculty from outside the GFC, particularly if particular expertise is useful. Janice: We usually get 6-10 nomination to PhD and Masters’ awards, suspects that wells and Edwards are similar. Wells and Edwards are in the Spring. David: small carryover for doctoral award after commencement. Janice: There is also staff support from Fellowships and Awards coordinator. Action: Mary will put Karen in touch with office in charge of prize.  Discussion of Survey(s): According to David Daleke, survey has been constructed but has not gone out. Could be university-wide. Janice: we just completed a survey of master’s students with 30% response. On fees, Stacie says recent task force on grad funding was excellent and offers good precedent for this committee. Jeff worked on report with Jane McCleod for IUB College. Scott wonders if this would now be extended to other school. David clarifies this was about stipends given work between College, GFC, GPSG, and his office. What hidden sources of funding do students use? This was a hard question to follow.  Janice notes that their survey was sent out by campus survey teams which can parse a range of factors. This allowed us to go back to Deans with much better data. Survey team might be better that the school or GPSG. David Daleke notes that we have a Center for Survey Research that really helped us and we got good return rates. He would endorse going with them for this effort. Discussion of Fees: Janice notes when students take courses across campuses they often double pay fees. It is unfair and a huge burden. Rebecca has a related question: a IUPUI student wants a Kelly minor but has been told it will be treated differently. Janice clarifies that transcripts will list the minor (“Individual Minor”) but not the other campus because minors are approved by each campus. David: it would be good to know the magnitude of problem; students can appeal fees (e.g. when they are off campus) so perhaps there are already ways to help students. Janice: we were told that it comes from the registrar on each campus. Stacie: Are you saying that appeal happens on Bursar level? David: That is an inequity that should be corrected.  Information Only  Discussion: Mary notes more recent action on last year’s Strategic Emphasis, including to-be-approved task force specific to graduate student mental health. Dean Wimbush will provide update on task force in future meeting. |
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| Update on GFC Elections for 2019-2020 | Jeff: We now how the final regional representative in place, Lee Kahan. We still have a Bloomington 1 vacancy in Natural & Mathematical sciences. We can host a special election or we could turn this over to grad initiatives to handle. | Information, Discussion & Action: Agreed to have a nomination and voting process in time for next meeting. Jeff: Should we just direct it to the unit or the entire campus? We agreed to just the unit. Reaching out to nominees individually is the best strategy. |
| Reports from Committees | Academic Policy Committee, Awards Committee, Diversity Issues Committee, Graduate Initiatives Committee: None  Student Representatives | Discussion: Lucas and Justin thank GFC for this opportunity. Great start to year to spread work about GPSG and connecting students with resources. Now voting for assembly. Initiatives: emphasis on financial well-being of students, creative ways to alleviate stresses for students: the survey, split up fees into monthly withdrawal rather than all in August. We want to not proscribe all agenda but work with the incoming representatives.  Justin on IUPUI: We’ve had a slow start and now have filled out rest of executive board. We have begun talking about: a grad student survey we’ll test in general assembly then students more broadly on general state of students and their concerns; floating idea of allocating meeting time to sub-committee time including mental health, sexual assault prevention; sustainability, open access journals, and we may be adding more… |
| Items for Discussion 2019-2020 | Margaret: Video bridge is being retired. We should move to Zoom. | Lessie and Margaret will work on this. |
| Adjournment | 3:18 |  |