**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**December 13, 2021**

**3:00 – 4:30 pm**

Zoom: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/86590649713?pwd=SWFCdGd2K0wyVldoY3lramJGQjBNQT09>

**Agenda**

* Approval of [minutes](https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1506992/files/folder/GFC%20Documents%202021-22/GFC%202021%20Meeting%20Agenda%20and%20Minutes%20-%20Nov%2015%2C%202021?preview=132261734) from Council meeting on November 15, 2021
* Committee Reports
* Awards Committee
	+ Concluded deliberation on first award of the year. Currently reviewing applications for second award of the year.
		- A few issues with awards committee membership such as a conflict of interest by some members and one member being on a sabbatical in spring- Dominique will be helping out
		- Don’t want volunteers from the council to participate on the awards committee at this time - will keep working on solutions for committee membership issues.
* GIC
	+ Review of MoneySmarts
		- Benefits committee of IUB GPSG to check out MoneySmarts. Prefer for students to give feedback on use of MoneySmarts rather than faculty.
	+ IU Mandatory fees and International Student Fees
		- IUB has the highest mandatory fees of all campuses.
		- Graduate student fees vary widely among campuses and academic units.
			* Students and departments have different grants and stipends to cover varying amounts of mandatory fees. Doesn’t seem to be as big of an issue at IUPUI.
		- Issue of students enrolled in courses from multiple campuses (e.g. IUPUI and PU West-Lafayette) being charged fees from multiple campuses.
			* Double fees for multiple campuses have been set by the administration and will be very difficult to change.
		- Will look at undergraduate fees across campuses for comparison and to get more background on fees.
	+ Offer Letter Recommendations
		- Student complaints that offer letters lack transparency
		- Will review offer letter material and report back later
	+ Suggestions for Points of Dialogue and Engagement - Insert for graduate program handbooks
		- Review and recommend structure for feedback to graduate students
		- Hidden administrative curriculum
		- Shed light on emotional impediments of graduate students
		- Will write up a list of issues for this project to send to the rest to the committee for feedback.
* IUB GPSG
	+ Passed resolution in November - affirming rights of graduate workers to form collective work organizations and ensuring employer neutrality in union organizing.
		- Informed international students of their equal rights to domestic students in union organization activities.
	+ Survey for understanding graduate student experiences is being moved forward
		- Disseminating survey as widely as possible; will share survey outcome with this committee in the future
* IUPUI GPSG
	+ Student wellness - focus on holistic wellness
		- Financial wellness - advocating for higher stipends - particularly in engineering and technology
		- Bias, discrimination and harassment - finding explanations for why students don’t feel comfortable reporting. Advocating for students to report through university outlets.
	+ Sustainability - benchmark IUPUI buildings
		- Helping IUPUI students get experience in sustainability practice while helping IUPUI understand their building energy use.
	+ Next semester
		- Focus on reducing student travel costs
* Promoting self-wellness book - offering headspace subscriptions to students
* Updates from Dean Wimbush
	+ - Mental Health Task force has given a report to deans and associate deans on the IUPUI campus.
		- All is well - looking forward to commencement
* Campus-specific updates from Deans Blum and Daleke
	+ - Continued success with mentoring centers - may be useful to get feedback from mentoring center leaders for the GIC.
		- Mental health and financial stresses - challenges that still need to be addressed - finding ways to support students
		- Focus on Elite 50 - recognition of top 50 graduate students
		- Thank you to all committees for hard work - especially the awards committee
		- To GIC - Annual review for graduate students would be welcomed
		- Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion position has been filled - Howard G. Simms – has now been on board for about 1 month
		- Director position for Graduate Mentoring Center (IUB) has been filled - Sean Nicholson-Crotty - coming on board in spring.
		- Is there any possibility for extra G901 (Advanced Research course)? - Very few requests for extensions have been denied.
* WebAdMIT and Grad CAS Applicant Portal

 Guest Speakers: Kim Bunch (University Graduate School Bloomington), Monica Henry (IUPUI Graduate Office)

* IU Graduate CAS (centralized application service)
	+ Application for all graduate and professional programs
	+ Program allows students to filter programs and apply to specific programs
	+ Graduate programs can customize “Program Materials” section for their own applications
	+ Now offer Campus Deep Links - link for applicants to find specific campuses’ programs
* WebAdMIT
	+ Backend of IU graduate applications - where faculty and staff process applications and communicate with applicants - where programs route applications for admissions
	+ Can pull data reports and create data reports
	+ Useful for tracking applicants through the application process, bulk or individually communicating with applicants and moving graduate program admissions committee work into a centralized online platform.
* Annual Prelaunch
	+ Can enhance application for following application cycle based on WebAdMIT data, applicant feedback and graduate program input/needs
	+ Graduate programs have until February 1st to update their applications for the 2022 cycle - IUPUC and IU Southeast have delayed their launch dates
* Summer Townhall and Virtual Visits
	+ Meetings with people across campuses to get feedback for WebAdMIT improvement.
	+ Town Hall Highlights and Outcomes
		- Phased approach for application launches
		- Launching a communications hub which centralizes dates, links and resources - improving communication between graduate school / graduate office and departments.
* Military and Security Questions
	+ New questions for 2021-2022 cycle - questions trigger a review - usually go through quickly before the applicant needs to be admitted
* Contacts and WebAdMIT Support
	+ Kim Bunch - kbunch@iu.edu
	+ Monica Henry - mlhenry@iupui.edu
	+ Contacting IU Core Team - gradcas@iu.edu
* Questions
	+ How are international students affected by military service questions? – The questions came from VP of research to comply with federal government - have had very few issues if any - these questions are asked of everybody, including US citizens and green card holders
	+ Where does the military service information from these questions go? It stays within the University - it doesn’t even go to the federal government - no students have been denied based on this information
	+ Are applicants made aware during the application process of scholarships available with each program? - Communicating that information is a responsibility for each department - The graduate office provides a list of all fellowships and awards on application pages.
	+ Does the graduate office seek feedback from student applicants? - There is a support center for applicants and applicant help center - all data from these centers are collected to improve the application process during the next cycle.
	+ How are students tracked when they apply to more than one program (on more than one campus)? - You can only track the student based on status created in your own program - students can’t be tracked based on applications outside of your own program.
* No new Business
* Adjournment

*Next Meeting: February 21, 2022*