**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**September 20, 2021**

**3:00 – 4:30 pm**

Zoom: https://iu.zoom.us/j/89455055173?pwd=MGE0UlhBTGp4a0ZXMlBFbmlOeTBhUT09

**Minutes**

1. Introductions – call to order at 3:03pm

Present: Dominique Galli, Devon Hensel, James Wimbush, David Daleke, Margaret Graves, Valentina Luketa, Larry Moss, Jeff Rutherford, Marcy Shepardson, Spencer Hall, Natalia Rybas, Nathan Schmidt, Diane Henshel, Alyson Essex, Jason Jackson, Krista Hoffman-Longtin, Shu Cole, Scott Aoki, Adam Eckard, Natalia Rybas, Janice Blum, Tabitha Hardy, Gloria Preece, Hanxiang Peng

1. Approval of minutes from Council meeting on April 19, 2021

Larry Moss moved; Nathan Schmidt seconded; All approved affirmatively.

1. Updates from Dean Wimbush
	1. Comments on a brand-new year – we are off to a great start!
		* New University leadership – Dr. Whitten has met with many faculty and students to engage the community. She wants GFC us to focus on the branding for the grad programs – especially certificates. She is an advocate for grad programs.
		* Enrollment – increase in grad enrollment (vs. undergrad decline) – similar to peer programs. Focus on developing new degree programs and increase overall enrollment in the various current programs.
		* Thanks to mental health task force – passed report to Chief Health Officer Dr. Aaron Carroll – Dr Whitten has tasked Dr. Carroll’s office with examining mental health in all students across University. No timetable for Dr. Carroll’s report back to GFC.
			+ Larry Moss: Any role for previous task force? They are eager to continue
			+ Dr. Carroll’s group will report back
		* Thanks to Customer Relationship Management Task force – recommendations to better use of salesforce instrument
2. Campus-specific updates from Deans Blum and Daleke
* Dean Blum
	+ Graduate student mixer was great
	+ IUPUI Mentoring Center is up and running
	+ Student well-being remains a focus – including student leave and associated coverage/loss of health insurance
	+ Increase in student diversity for 2020-2021
	+ May graduation awarded the largest number of degrees historically
* Dean Daleke
	+ His office is tracking academic progress – There was a delay of awarding PhD degrees during the May graduation because of the pandemic (May graduation = 445 PhDs conferred)
	+ Concerns remain about student well-being
	+ Graduate student orientation event was very successful
	+ Student and faculty share concerns about in person return to classrooms
	+ Monitoring leave policies – including paid leave
	+ Office of Graduate School is open for in-person walk-ins (open 9-4pm) – some staff turnovers/new staff

Upon questioning, it was mentioned that the IUB mentoring handbook is currently being drafted. Once completed it will be presented to the GFC.

* + Graduate Workers Coalition are pushing for unionization
1. GFC Overview
* overall charge and available resources – the Canvas site is organized by year and purpose
	+ Canvas site (<https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1506992>)
	+ Website (<https://graduatefacultycouncil.iu.edu/>)
	+ Graduate Bulletin (<https://bulletins.iu.edu/iu/gradschool/2020-2021/index.shtml#2>)
	+ Our charge - making recommendations based on experiences and voting on new policies
* strategic emphasis for this academic year
	+ Recruitment and retention of minority students (carryover from last year) and new this year international students; both cohorts were particularly affected by the pandemic
* guest speakers (3:37)
	+ at least one per semester
	+ Potential guest speakers:
		- Hannah Buxbaum - report on international graduate/professional students
		- Aaron Carroll – mental health policy implementation
		- Monica Henry and Kim Bunch – update on WebAdMIT admission management platform and Grad CAS Applicant Portal based on feedback received from town halls across IU
* committee membership
	+ Rosters are posted on Canvas
	+ General purpose and charge for each - listed on Graduate Faculty Council website
	+ Documents of work completed or in progress from prior years can be found on Canvas
* elections of committee chairs — Margaret Graves (Vice Chair)
	+ APC: Diane Henshel (20 affirmative, 1 abstention)
	+ Awards: Jason Jackson (20 affirmative, 1 abstention)
	+ DEI: currently vacant – will send vote later
		- Dr. Galli will work one-on-one with elected chair
	+ GIC: Spencer Hall (20 affirmative, 1 abstention)
* meetings with committee chairs
* Dr. Galli will meet with all committee chairs to discuss the tasks for the 21/22 year
* monthly committee reports
	+ split up committee reports - committees will take turns and report only at every other meeting
	+ IUB and IUPUI GPSG Presidents will be asked to provide reports every other month as well
1. New Business—open call
* Recent Bulletin updates resulting from 20/21 GFC work:
	+ Minor subject: language has been updated
	+ Policies and procedures: language has been updated for
		- Documentation of professional experience
		- Leave of Absence
	+ Challenge: monitoring policy updates at the graduate program/professional school level
* GPSG Presidents, Alyson Essex and Valentina Luketa, were asked how new policies (e.g. leave of absence, health insurance) are being communicated to the students. Issues that were raised:
	+ Disparities between departments’ communication ability
	+ Need for streamlining communication directly to all students from one source
* Student leave of absence and health insurance plans
	+ Issues with health insurance plans for students taking leave
	+ Will push for affordable insurance options for students going on leave
	+ Upcoming meeting of the graduate deans with human resources – information will be shared with the GFC after meeting
1. Adjournment at 4:11pm

*Next Meeting: October 18, 2021*