

**Indiana University Graduate
Faculty Council December
14, 2020
1:00 – 2:30 pm**

Present: William Allegrezza, Janice Blum, Dena Carson, Erika Cheng, Dakota Coates, David Daleke, Jill Fehrenbacher, Margaret Graves, Spencer Hall, Tabitha Hardy, Devon Hensel, Ed Hirt, Lisa Hoffman, Krista Hoffmann-Longtin, Jason Baird Jackson, Lee Kahan, Jon Macy, Larry Moss, Ben Perrin, Natalia Rybas, Nathan Schmidt, Scott Shackelford, Pravina Shukla, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Vincent Starnino, Justin Williams

Agenda

- 1. Approval of minutes** from GFC meeting on 16 Nov 2020 - [link to minutes](#) | [link to recording](#)
- 2. Updates from Dean Wimbush** – he is not able to attend but says, *“Please extend my regrets to the group, thanks for their good work, and wishes for a relaxing and restorative break.”*

3. Standing Reports from Committees

A) Mental Health Task Force (MHTF), Larry – [draft report](#) (for phase I; a work in progress, not the version formally sent to James, and a more comprehensive one in prep for next semester)

Larry explained that this was not the final report of the committee. He asked what faculty need right now to aid students in terms of their mental health, and hopes to make requests later for additional input.

Rebecca asked whether the committee would develop syllabus inserts for faculty, indicating the other wellness resources available on campus in addition to CAPS. This clearly needs to be advertised better.

Dakota (who is on the MHTF committee) mentioned, with regard to the syllabus insert issue, that most syllabi typically include just a CAPS link. It would be much better to expand this. Also, he noted that the Well Track app is now in place at IUB to assist students.

Janice noted that the three wellness days recently announced for the Spring term is only an IUB thing. It remains to be seen whether the entire IU system will have them. The question was raised whether these wellness days apply just to students, or whether faculty have these days off too. It appears that they are targeted specifically for students, but faculty might have no zoom meetings??

Spencer asked how we get this document into faculty’s hands quickly. David emphasized the fact that the document is not geared specifically to faculty, and that it will be important to coordinate messages with the offices that provide those services on each campus. He also mentioned that faculty should all undergo Responsible Employee training, to make sure that they know how to report things and file CARE referrals if students are having difficulty.

Janice voiced her praise for this document, but suggested that we can’t just push this out. Services differ on the various campuses, and regional campuses don’t have some of these special services. She raised the question whether regional campuses could access services at the other campuses. Discussion of this issue suggested that Dean Wimbush is probably the one that must push this document to Eliza Pavalko’s office to determine

how best to share this information with faculty and staff.

Justin mentioned that a mental health grant has been submitted to give Headspace, a mindfulness app, to all IUPUI students.

(B) Academic Policy Committee (APC) - Chair: Scott | [update on leave policy](#) | update on course validation timing project

Scott guided the GPC through the **Graduate Bulletin language for the leave policy**. He said that that supplemental policy document will follow, that will provide guidance in how to put this into practice for units.

Spencer noted that the proposed language change to the bulletin is quite vague, and asked why the proposed policy is not more specific. The current draft requires units to have a leave policy in place, and many units don't.

A new statement was offered to be added to the policy (addition in bold below). The draft now reads:

*The UGS, **consistent with the school's recommendation**, will likewise provide exceptions and/or increased flexibility with regard to academic progression to all students approved for a leave of absence by their respective schools.*

A vote was conducted on this leave policy at the meeting via Qualtrics. The vote was 19-0 in favor.

Scott then updated the GPC on the **credit transfer issue** between certificates and other degree programs. Discussions of this issue have just begun.

Finally, Scott mentioned the **VPN issue**. Discussions with Dakota and colleagues at UITS indicated that logistically it is hard to amplify VPN networks internationally. One suggestion was to partner with sister institutions in Korea or Japan. In addition, students should reduce load on VPN when not needed.

(C) Awards Committee - Chair: Gloria

Gloria was unable to be present at this meeting, but committee members reported that the Wells Fellowship had been awarded to a student from the School of Education this year.

(D) Diversity and Equity Issues Committee (DEIC) - Chair: Dominique

Dominique was also absent from the meeting, so Rebecca stepped in for today. Rebecca reviewed the issues discussed by their committee, including language proficiency standards for graduate students, cultural competency training, and the possible inclusion of DEI-oriented questions on teaching evaluations (e.g., OCQs).

(E) Graduate Initiatives Committee (GIC) - Chair: Jill | [updated bylaws - summary](#)

Jill was absent. However, the GIC committee reported that they have updated and changed the bylaws based on our votes from the last GPC meeting. Votes 1-5 and 7 all passed.

4. Standing reports from regional campuses

East (Natalia) – Natalia reported that 4 faculty attended the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) conference. The conference was very good and the main issues discussed were student mental health and expressing kindness to others, inclusiveness, and adopting a future orientation. She was thankful for the support to be able to attend.

Kokomo (Gloria) – Gloria was not present, so no report.

Northwest (Bill) --- Bill simply expressed his happiness to finish the Fall semester.

South Bend (Lee) -- Lee had to leave the meeting early, so no report.

Southeast (Lisa) – Lisa said that she received the needed information last time, so had no new issues to discuss.

5. Reports from Student Representatives

(A) Overview of IUPUI's GPSG's projects and concerns – Justin

Justin mentioned the grant (referred to earlier) to get the Head Space app to IUPUI students. He also told us about a resolution from their DEI committee expressing a commitment to supporting minority owned businesses. Finally, he noted that IUPUI student reps are very excited to be involved in the GPC committees.

(B) Overview of IUB's GPSG's projects and concerns – Dakota

Dakota said that the IUB GPSG passed a resolution about the fee issue, as well as a resolution about parking on campus. He said that they have added more minority students to its meetings. He also expressed that their food insecurity work has been continuing, including efforts to provide emergency meals during the break to those in need.

(C) Follow-up on *canvas/text timing resolution* – Dakota, Justin, David, Jill, Janice
In response to the previous resolution about access to course information, it was reported that the GIC has taken this issue up (Jill was not present at this meeting). The resolution requests that course information (textbook information, class format information, etc.) be provided 2 weeks before the start of the semester. The GIC researched this issue, and found that federal law stipulates that instructors should provide textbook information at registration. Syllabi and Canvas pages should be posed before classes start, but the norm is that syllabi are given out and discussed on the first day of class. Spencer asked what angle there is for the GPC on this issue. Dakota said that he met with administration. The problem is that information about syllabus inserts often comes just a couple of days before the beginning of the semester, leaving little time to incorporate this information.

6. Discussion Items

(A) *Spring 2021 meeting time* – Spencer – we will meet at 3:00-4:30pm, as per bylaws. No better solution was available. Monday, January 25th will be our first meeting of 2021.

(B) *Fees, fees, fees* – mandatory fees as a DEI / *food security* issue? - David
Daleke informed us that some of these fees were campus specific, while others are university wide. The technology fee, for instance, goes directly to UITS. Dakota suggested that maybe we just need to make this information more transparent to students.

7. New Business –

(A) *Graduate mentoring* -- a need for principles? A round-up of guidelines?
Summary by David | [College guidelines](#) | [A pamphlet from GCM](#)

The issue of graduate mentoring was raised, in lieu of prominent concerns about mentoring quality. We have a graduate mentoring center, but the question is whether it is serving our system well. Katie Kerns and Maria Hamilton Abegunde are the key resource people at IUB. Janice mentioned that Randall Roper is the director of the graduate mentoring center at IUPUI. Issues seem to come up mostly with regard to PhD training, but there are others as well (e.g., DEI issues). The question is whether it should be a requirement for Graduate Faculty to receive mentorship training. This issue is still up for debate. Numerous questions were raised in this discussion. What services can we provide on our respective campuses? Are there interested partners who have not been involved or consulted with regard to this issue? These mentoring centers may be places to convene groups of interested partners in this effort.

Spencer expressed an interest in the GPC taking this issue on. The first step would be to collate policies from different units. Spencer already has the college guidelines. The next step would be to invite Randall Roper and/or Maria Hamilton Abegunde to a future GPC meeting.

(B) *First Nations*

In the absence of time, this issue was tabled until next meeting. The question is whether this is an issue in which the GPC can be an active participant.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.