

GFC-GIC (Graduate Initiatives Committee)

Summary of Charges and Projects for the AY 2021-22

Chair: Spencer Hall, Biology IUB, sprhall@iu.edu, 812-855-6009

18 October 2021 Meeting

Charge: *Review current activities and propose new initiatives for the UGS and the GFC; update the Constitution and Bylaws*

Projects for the AY 2021-2022 – Status update

1. **Syllabi posting and Canvas notification (resolution):** Follow up with UGS Deans and Julie Johnston (Director of Learning Spaces, UITS) concerning timely posting and notification. ([IUB GPSG Resolution](#)).

Action plan: UGS ADs consider issue closed; will concur after Valentina evaluates origin of resolution

Conclusion: We determined this issue was no longer one that UGS should be concerned with.

2. **Offer letter requirements:** Review minimal requirements for offer letters and distribute these recommendations via UGS to relevant School. ([IUB GPSG Resolution](#))

Action plan: Request documents with guidance from UGS ADs and Schools / IUB College.

Conclusion: We collected offer letter materials from IUPUI but not IUB.

Recommendation: Revisit this issue next year.

3. **Money Smarts:** Review accuracy of websites managed by [Money Smarts](#) to better convey total costs of attendance at graduate and professional programs.

Action plan: We reviewed Money Smarts, but felt we needed actual graduate students willing to follow up, to try it out.

Conclusion: We will need to follow up with a GPSG committee that volunteered to take this on.

4. **Mentoring and Advising:** Dissemination of best practices on student mentoring/mandate for faculty mentor training. Many threads of graduate life (mental health, retention, DEI, financial health, time to completion, etc.)

Action plan: Create a list of best practice suggestions and prompts for dialogue. Compile existing resources. Distribute to Schools for inclusion in Grad Handbooks.

Conclusion: We started this project, but shelved it (due to the Chair's inaction on it during the Spring semester). Spencer will work on a first draft over the summer to share with the GIC at our first meeting during the fall semester.

Recommendation: Continue with this project.

5. Next steps of the **Graduate Mental Health Task Force**

Action plan: Pending Aaron Carroll's report. Remain advocate for MHTF.

Conclusion: The MHTF report has left the hands of the GIC and GFC, but we are grateful for the two status reports from Dr. Carroll.

Recommendation: We should continue to ask for status reports and updates from Dr. Carroll next year.

6. **Graduate student fees** compared to other universities

Action plan: (A) Request OIS rep to describe fees charge ([IUB GPSG Resolution](#) | [BTAA fees](#)).

(B) Continue seeking updates from UGS ADs about developments with Mandatory Fees.

Conclusions:

(A) We were not very successful in having dialogue with our visitor from OIS ([Hannah Buxbaum](#), VP for International Affairs) about why fees are as high as they are. BP Buxbaum did indicate that fees have not increased since 2019; they are "not a menu"; fees are charged to pay for services to those needing them without raising tuition in a time of reduced state support; many students require individual case work (complex and expensive), which contributes to high staff costs. Note: the CCGE

(College Committee on Grad Education) has submitted questions to the OIS and asked for a representative to please come discuss fees with us. They did not.

(B) Mandatory Fees:

We did discuss variation in Mandatory fees among campuses after a survey of standard, posted fees collected from each campuses websites:

MANDATORY FEES PAID BY/FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS								
Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) - Graduate Initiatives Committee (GIC)								
Compiled by: Spencer Hall, IUB, GIC Chair, sprhall@iu.edu, 812-855-6009								
Purpose: These are the mandatory fees paid by graduate students for enrollment in 12 credits per semester for 2 semesters (no summer)								
Campus	Tech	Activity	R&R	Health	Transport	General	TOTAL	SOURCE
IUSB							657.2	https://administration.iusb.edu/bursar/tuition-and-fees/iu-south-bend-master-fee-list.htm
IUPUI	386		360			414	1160	https://facultystaffcentral.iupui.edu/financials/tuition-fees.html
IUB	408.08	219.54	404.7	249.98	138.16		1420.46	https://studentcentral.indiana.edu/pay-for-college/cost-of-iu/mandatory-fees.html
IUS							657.2	https://www.ius.edu/student-central/paying-for-college/cost-of-ius/semester-fees.html
IUK							657.2	https://www.iuk.edu/bursar/tuition-and-fees/index.html
IUE	379.88	140.24	137.1				657.2	https://www.iue.edu/red-wolf-central/cost/fees.html
IUN	365.32	134.88	131.8				631.96	https://www.iun.edu/bursar/tuition-and-fees/campus-approved-fee-rates-fiscal-year.htm

We determined:

(1) IUB has highest fees, but IUPUI does have relatively comparable fee structures. While many labs in the SoM pay for these fees (or departments pick them up), other graduate students at IUPUI do pay them, and they cause financial stress (particularly on top of OIS fees). However, IUPUI GPSG has reports that IUPUI students have not organized behind efforts to request relief from these fees.

(2) Regional campuses collect much lower fees (about half) based on 24 credit hours per semester. However, regional reps indicated that most graduate students enroll part time, therefore paying much lower realized fees. Hence, unlike at IUB, graduate students on those campuses have not rallied behind initiatives to lower them.

Recommendation: Discussion of mandatory fees has always been informative but difficult at the GFC because none of them fall under the jurisdiction of the UGS. However, unionization efforts at IUB during April 2022 have fee relief has part of their requests of IUB campus. Hence, we hope that UGS Deans will help catalyze leadership towards (A) creating sustained dialogue with graduate students, and (B) continue working with students to improve financial health.

7. Issues related to online education [collaborate with APC]

Conclusion: APC took this project on.

Recommendation: Revisit next year.

8. GFC Committees- regional campuses: Discuss the appropriateness/need of a regional campus committee on the GFC with current and former GFC members from said campuses.

Action plan: (A) Hear from regional campus members. (B) Debate implications for standing committee work

Conclusion: We determined that, at this time, the regional campus reps did not feel it was best to create a standing committee for the campuses (i.e., no changes to bylaws were necessary) at this time.

Recommendation: We hope this topic is revisited annually, ensuring that regional campuses have a voice that they feel reflects their needs, provides enough communication, but avoids unnecessary burdens.

9. The Appendix of the Bylaws: The number of faculty and the names of units must be updated in the bylaws of the GFC.

Action plan: This project was begun in March 2022 by Spencer and Assistant Dean Jeff Rutherford. We also plan to write up an explanation of how these numbers are arrived at to ensure transparency and institutional memory.

Conclusion: Jeff is presently collecting the data on faculty numbers on campus. That project has been interrupted before completion by the pandemic.

Recommendation: Jeff and Spencer will present the updates at the first meeting of the GFC in August.

VOTING ITEM FROM GIC-GFC – April 2022 Meeting

Updates to the Appendix of the GFC Bylaws

Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council (GFC)

for Monday, 18 April 2022

Contact: Spencer Hall, GIC Chair - sprhall@iu.edu

SUMMARY: (1) The appendix of the bylaws were updated, with both names of departments and numbers of graduate faculty. (2) IUPUI will lose one seat (from IN-1). That seat will cycle off. (3) Following GFC approval, the election will proceed accordingly and the Bylaws will be updated on Canvas and the GFC's public website.

EXPLANATION

(1) *Background:* The Appendix of the By-laws for the GFC summarizes the election units of the Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council (GFC). It is used to determine the number of representatives serving on the GFC from each unit. The units are grouped into clusters of departments within schools that likely share some intellectual similarities.

(2) *Number of members,* paraphrased from our by-laws, Article II, Section 3:
Each election unit is entitled one GFC representative for every 150 graduate faculty. Each unit must have one representative.

(3) *Updates on the numbers – how it is done:*

(A) *Who:* Updates are managed by Jeff Rutherford, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, UGS-IUB.

(B) *From where:* his year's updates came from March 2022 information on the number of [graduate faculty](#) from OVPFAA.

(C) *Updates on names:* Dean Rutherford updated the names of the departments in each unit.

(D) *Updates on numbers:* The total number of representatives from IUB and IUPUI come from the total number of graduate faculty at that campus. Values are rounded up or down to the nearest seat

<u>Campus</u>	<u>Count as of April 2022</u>	<u>Number of votes</u>
IUB	1,599	$1,599 / 150 = 10.7$, rounded up to 11
IUPUI	1,382	$1,382 / 150 = 9.2$, rounded down to 9

The regional most regional campuses have less than 150 graduate faculty, but per bylaw, they each receive 1 representative on the GFC (all were rounded up or down, as for the other campuses).

<u>Campus</u>	<u>Count as of April 2022</u>	<u>Number of votes</u>
IUEA	83	$83 / 150 = 0.6$, rounded up to 1
IUKO	83	$83 / 150 = 0.6$, rounded up to 1
IUNW	93	$93 / 150 = 0.6$, rounded up to 1
IUSB	157	$157 / 150 = 1.0$, rounded down to 1
IUSE	132	$132 / 150 = 0.9$, rounded down to 1

(4) *Changes in 2022:*

(A) Several departmental entries were updated to reflect most recent names

(B) IUPUI will cycle off one of the IN-1 (School of Medicine) seats, dropping from 5 to 4.

(C) FYI: This update restores the typical balance between GFC seats of IUB (11) and IUPUI (9).

(5) *Procedure moving forward:*

(A) Acceptance of this update requires 2/3 vote of the GFC.

(B) The bylaws document will be updated on the GFC [Canvas site](#) and [GFC website](#).

(C) The election will proceed with the end of the semester.

Appendix
Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council Election Units

Bloomington (1599; 11)

BL-1 (233; 2)

Astronomy
Biology
Center for Exploration of Energy and Matter
Chemistry
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Geological Survey
History and Philosophy of Science and
Medicine
Mathematics
Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry
Physics
Statistics

BL-2 (232; 2)

Anthropology
Criminal Justice
Economics
Geography
Kinsey Institute
The Media School
Political Science
Psychological and Brain Sciences
Sociology

BL-3 (159; 1)

School of Medicine
School of Nursing
School of Optometry
School of Public Health
School of Social Work
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

BL-4 (270; 2)

Kelley School of Business
O’Neill School of Public and Environmental
Affairs
Maurer School of Law

BL-5 (195; 1)

Art History
Eskenazi Museum of Art
Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture +
Design
Jacobs School of Music
Theater, Drama, and Contemporary Dance

BL-6 (141; 1)

African American and African Diaspora
Studies
American Indian Studies Research Institute
American Studies
Classical Studies
Folklore and Ethnomusicology
Gender Studies
History
Linguistics
Philosophy
Religious Studies
Second Language Studies

BL-7 (168; 1)

Comparative Literature
English
French and Italian
Germanic Studies
Hamilton Lugar School of Global and
International Studies
Slavic and East European Languages and
Cultures
Spanish and Portuguese

BL-8 (201; 1)

School of Education
Institute on Disability and Community
Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and
Engineering

Indianapolis (1382; 9)

IN-1 (696; 4)

School of Medicine

IN-2 (117; 1)

School of Liberal Arts

IN-3 (148; 1)

Fairbanks School of Public Health
School of Dentistry
School of Health and Human Sciences
School of Nursing

IN-4 (112; 1)

Herron School of Art + Design
School of Education
School of Informatics and Computing
School of Social Work

IN-5 (111; 1)

Kelley School of Business
Columbus Campus
McKinney School of Law
O’Neill School of Public & Environmental
Affairs
Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

IN-6 (198; 1)

School of Science
School of Engineering and Technology

Regional Campuses (548; 5)

EA – East (83; 1)

Kokomo (83; 1)

NW - Northwest (93; 1)

SB - South Bend (157; 1)

SE - Southeast (132; 1)