**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**20 April 2020**

**2:00 – 3:30 pm**

|  |
| --- |
| Present: William Allegrezza, Lucas Adams, Margaret Bauer, Janice Blum, Deena Carson, David Daleke, |

Jill Fehrenbacher, Lessie Frazier, Dominique Galli, Spencer Hall, Edwina Helton, Ed Hirt, Stacie King, John Macy, Larry Moss, Massimo Ossi, Fred Pavalko, Ben Perrin, Scott Shackelford, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Mary Waldron, Diane Willie, James Wimbush, Jeff Rutherford

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **TOPIC** | **ITEMS/DISCUSSIONS** | **OUTCOMES/DECISIONS (in bold)** |
| Approval of minutes |  | Minutes approved |
| Updates from the Dean | Dean Wimbush: Thanks to the GFC, especially support for the graduate students. One exciting item to report on: by the end of this week or the next, the first university-wide Graduate School newsletter will be sent out. It will cover recent changes, recent thesis and dissertation defenses, exceptions to deadlines, grading, English proficiency testing, international student issues, resources, along with other helpful information. This is a way for the council to report on its activity. Planning for a semi-regular basis, perhaps twice a semester, excluding the summer. If we see a need for more frequent newsletters, given Covid, we’ll adjust.  President’s re-start committee: scenarios for a re-start: 1) all is well for August (not likely), 2) August hybrid online and in-person labs & doctoral seminars but no large groups, 3) Fall online and full re-start in January (Brown is considering this), 4) not resuming at all next academic year. Not clear what the timetable for decision is.  Dean Blum: Yes at IUPUI, and specific committees for international students, community relations, libraries, computing; we are on a tight timeline for recommendations with May 15th for final committee reports. I had heard May1st for Bloomington. Likely to be an asynchronous re-start. Problem of professional students needing to do practicums. | Mary Waldron: Wil there be heads up on policy changes in the newsletter?  Dean Wimbush: Certainly.  Stacy King: Intended for students and faculty?  Dean Wimbush: Primarily for graduate faculty.  Mary: Might include a request for DGS’s to send relevant information to their graduate students.  Mary: Alternate re-start plans for grad students?  Spencer: Would larger classes be online for the whole semester or with possibility of mid-semester return?  Dean Wimbush: Not clear  Spencer: Admission deferrals?  Deans Blum and Wimbush: Presume so. We will do anything we can to not loose students, especially for international students who can’t get a visa to get here.  Mary: Deferrals?  Jason introducing Dakota, the new GPSG president.  Stacy: Any talk of changing standing policy of IU honoring grad student funding commitments or are we looking at furloughs?  Dean Blum: We are hopeful that we can continue to support the students. The more faculty can do to put students on grands rather than relying on teaching. The College are asking this of the Distinguished faculty especially. We will take same approach at IUPUI.  Dean Daleke: We honor verbal and written commitments. We want to make sure we can support as many as we can. They are integral to our teaching missions. Deans are however including SAAs in budget calculations. Most worried about Graduate Assistants which are often supported by auxiliary groups (residential programs, offices) that are under tighter budgets.  Dean Blum: Those that work in the dorms.  Mary: School of Ed is anticipating lost AI-ships because of lower undergrad enrollments  Dean Blum: Now is the time to start planning.  Dean Daleke: Hopefully unfilled positions.  Mary: Many are in offers of admission so protecting current students is at odds with incoming students.  Blum: Incoming students are contacting us to assure themselves of fellowships  Daleke: IUB not subject to same kind of cuts as other campuses so we have some protection but schools have to manage this themselves; I would hope that verbal and written offers are kept.  Bulm: There may be funding from the Cares Act funding.  Daleke: Committee working on how to distribute this.  Dean Wimbush: International students will get checks as well  Stacy: we have a several international incoming students. It would be good to have decisions sooner rather than later.  Blum You can have a parallel online section for international students  The funding part is crucial. I hear from Purdue that you can provide funding to international students from funding other than grant sources.  Mary: This assumes we have those funds  Spencer: Waiving international fees for international student fees?  Blum: Not that I know of. We are looking at massive debt. Covering online fees for summer but fall not likely. Fees pay for the staff who work in those offices.  Ed Hirt: Deadline leniency?  Daleke: We are taken request for extensions on academic deadlines. So far we have found that the virtual defenses are going very well. This suggests that we can get through this well. Don’t hesitate to contact us with questions! |
| Discussion Items | * 1. GFC elections for 2020-2021 – Dominique Galli (with Jeff Rutherford)   Jeff: Going out. Let us know if you notice problems with the network please let us know. Encourage nominations and self-nominations.  GFC executive committee: Nominations and vote  President: Spencer Hall IUB  Vice-President: Dena Carson IUPUI  Secretary: Ed Hirt IUB |  |
| Reports from Committees | IUB Students [Lucas]: Resources (online page also for concerns) & Collaboration (in conjunction with the undergrads). Supported IU Dining and Union in emergency meals program.  Dakota: (incoming GPSP President as of May) Offering students up to 50 free meals per day M-F. Student order the food the day before for pickup from Reed Hall or delivery option. Get 1.5 servings of protein, grain, veggie/fruit, desert, vegan options. Average 20-35 meals with warm student response. Will continue rest of semester and Food Institute is taking donations. Goal is to develop this into a more permanent project for summer and fall.  Lucas: Virtual student engagement initiative to involve student sin orientation events.  Dakota: Here is the GPSG resource page: https://gpso.sitehost.iu.edu/resources/covid-19-resources/  IUPUI Students [Justin]: no report  Graduate Initiatives Committee: [Scott]  Mental Health Task Force launching this coming week.  Change to Diversity committee name.  Graduate student ability to vote on committees is yet unresolved.  [see report on file]  Diversity Issues Committee: [Stacy written report]  Clarified that the committee name change has passed and is now in effect.  Awards Committee: [Lessie for Karen]  [see report on file]  Academic Policy Committee: [Rebecca]  [see report on file]  Leave of absence policies: Set of recommendation for what policies should address  Graduate minor: Concerns over clarity in wording. We do not have a final recommendation. We spent a lot of time on this as a committee. | Dean Wimbush: Congratulate Lucas on doing a terrific job. We wish you all the best. We welcome Dakota and look forward to working with them.  Dean Daleke: Also express appreciation for Lucas.  Dean Daleke: Survey is on hold given the crisis.  Rebecca: Concern about communication: IUB GPSG meets frequently with strong communication but is there going to be enough communication with IUPUI? Structure of the two groups is quite different.  Dean Blum: Our GPSG reached out to us for help with communications –they answer to student affairs and may are professional students here for a short term much more volunteer. We are going to help them communicate more but they are not necessarily representative of the student son campus.  Justin: Finding reps is a challenge but it is no insurmountable. If we cannot find a student, then this will not impact the committee but student participation would enhance committee work. Would use same language as that for the diversity committee.  Dean Blum: Has the IUPUI agreed to this?  Scott: Sounds like this needs to happen and this can be brought up in the Fall.  Dean Blum: Easy to miss important aspects if we don’t acknowledge how things work differently on different campuses.  Mary: Lucas and Dakota can you be in contact with Justin on this to be ready for the Fall.  Dakota: When does the leadership for Fall come on board  Dean Blum: These are largely volunteers  Tabitha Hardy: Decisions about who can represent are based on their schedules  Dakota: Can you share that information with us?  Mary and Scott: thanks for taking that on Dakota.  Mary: For mental health task force: could there be a box for uploading relevant reports?  The Executive committee will follow up on email on getting next year’s awards committee set and ready to beginning work in August.  Dakota: Clarifying question: credits count toward the degree?  Rebecca: Can’t count toward the major requirements. Committee did not come to a unanimous decision. Though we do think this is beneficial for the policy but the part that remains potentially unclear is how to adapt the term “major department.”  Lessie: I am still concerned that the current policy is not being enforced by the Graduate School as I have seen multiple cases in the College of students using for their minor courses that are taught cross-listed by faculty in their major department and wanting one of those same faculty to serve as the minor representative on their committees; in sum, they never leave the major department.  Jeff: The Graduate School sees cases where large complex programs where complex departments have exceeded the language of the policy. |
|  | No New Business |  |
| Adjournment | 3:35 |  |