**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**27 January 2020**

**2:00 – 3:30 pm**

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

Jill Fehrenbacher, Lessie Frazier, Dominique Galli, Spencer Hall, Edwina Helton, Tabitha Hardy, Mircea Ivan, Lee Kahan, Stacie King, Karen Kovacik, John Macy, Larry Moss, Gloria Preece, Scott Shackelford, Terry Shepherd, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Vincent Starnino, Mary Waldron, Diane Willie, Justin Williams, James Wimbush, Jeff Rutherford

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| **TOPIC** | **ITEMS/DISCUSSIONS** | **OUTCOMES/DECISIONS** |
| Approval of minutes |  | Minutes approved |
| Updates from the Dean | Dean Wimbush:  The online grad application is working well. IU NW School of Education will have a year to get on board with this.  Mental Health Task Force: Last year’s report did not think very specifically about grad students. There could be a joint task force between Grad School and GFC. Composition of task force will be left up to GFC, can include experts from across university –the more expertise, the better.  Grad Workers Coalition: movement to challenge fees.  Dean Daleke on Graduate Workers Coalition:  In contact with the Graduate Workers Coalition (Indianagradworkers.org) that is seeking the end of fees and has a petition with 1400+ signatures. Last Fall the coalition met with the College Dean who informed them that College will cover unremittable fees. The Coalition met with GPSG who endorsed the petition. The Coalition asked to meet with David Daleke, a meeting which will happen this week. The Coalition will march from Woodburn clock at 1pm Jan 28th, marching to the meeting with David Daleke. We all agree grad students are chronically underfunded; will also talk about the good things that are happening: raising stipends, fundraising research money. Wants to discuss strategy for meeting goals. David’s office does not set fees but is glad to forward the petition. School of Ed is moving to cover fees for some students. Not clear if original fiscal purpose of unremittable fees is still relevant. Each school has control over stipends (per RCM) and can set them competitively for their discipline. The Grad School is raising them $2000 per year for coming years. | **OUTCOME: GIC will form task force**  At IUPUI? Janice: fees are under discussion in general by students but no real protests; we are working with the grad school to discuss raising diversity fellowship stipends.  David: Students have voice on committee for fee review and they need to use it. What happens to the services those fees support? Need a complex approach to the goal. Grad students should be paid more and fees should be commensurable with use. Almost impossible to sort graduate students vs undergraduates. Health Center data suggests that use is proportionate. SSAs get fee remission ($40,000 per year) and we need to not cut into that. Shifting costs from one pocket to another may have unintentional consequences. Doing a comprehensive study on how students are paying for their education.  Unremittable fees were created for servicing debt on loans that state funds couldn’t cover and were only paid by students with fee remissions. There are still mandatory fees. Some schools pay these fees for their doctoral students. About $1000/semester, roughly. |
| Discussion Items | Spencer Hall on Credit accounting, as letter author: College Committee on Grad Education. Accounting issue with credits (Point 1A in the letter) in point B, we know the accounting issues comes up when students have left IU, last minute problems can be critical for international students among others. Point C: grad bulletin makes less clear why there have been accounting issues: for example, there are terms such as “cognate” and other words lacking definitions; faculty want to have input on what these terms mean. Concern over College and Grad School oversight. Looking through past GFC minutes was a problem because until now these minutes were not available, an issue of transparency (now resolved by Jeff Rutherford: now on GFC website, publically accessible) –however, this has not resolved the issues such as possible policy changes that are not in the pdf vs. online versions of the Bulletin; concern over possible changes regarding transfer Master’s credits.  Rebecca (Academic Policy Committee) Recommendation: no more than 30 hrs of (with grade of B or higher) transfer to doctoral degree. Deleting mention of cognate. That is the current formal policy and keeps consistency across campuses. Current cognate practice at IUB was to let students use credits when they started a Masters at IUB but continued to Ph.D., regardless of field. Eliminating the cognate in the policy clarified this. Limiting credits keeps standards high. Danger is ending up with 40% to 60% of doctoral credits coming from Masters programs. A straightforward policy keeps a solid foundation. Then programs can approve which courses count toward degree requirements. Need to treat students equally and fairly across board.  Lessie: issues of in-house graduate minors: Several departments in the College are using cross-listed courses for the minor so students end up taking the minor, almost exclusively, with faculty who are part of their doctoral home unit. Students are also creating last-minute independent minors using courses cross-listed with their doctoral program home unit (something explicitly prohibited by the policy): who is approving these?  Lucas: student representation in GFC committees: Possible need for a bylaw to allow student reps on grad initiatives and academic policy committees. Give students option to have rep. on those committees. Either main reps would serve or appoint another representative.  Just have committee reps on Canvas. Will need to specify voting or non-voting. | Rebecca: end of last year’s meeting we touched on 8 vs. 9 credits and projected this as a pressing issue for this year’s GFC. Janice: remember that Bulletin applies to all campuses. No changes at IUPUI. Grad School policies apply across campuses. Mary: Bulletin needs to stay broad but leave room for interpretation. Students and faculty can get left in a lurch. Can schools have ultimate say?  Margaret: No limits on what courses from what school, unit decides content. Dominique: Issue of timeline for acceptance or rejection of transfer credits. Students need to know early on.  Mary: School of Ed states credits must be transferred within 2 years of entering doctoral program.  Spencer: Assistant Dean from College has authority to approve. David: Early 1990s agreement that credit transfer and the application are separate. Typically issues come up at Candidacy. Stacy: challenge is de-coupling of Candidacy (60 credits) from the 90 needed for graduation. Janice: “Dean” in bulletin means Dean of Grad School.  Stacy: hours of transfer credits for masters is 9. Discrepancy needs to be changed in both pdf and online.  Mary: students like to use these for a minor.  Jeff: Not a problem as long as it is under the transfer limit. Policy is up to date in both pdf and online.  **OUTCOME: Unanimous vote in favor of policy change.**  Rebecca: School of Business has had to be vigilant.  Stacy and Jeff: students cannot double count.  Mary: purpose of minor is to move people outside field; whereas units are developing new minors and using them for greater specialization (i.e. these are really sub-fields within their doctoral home program).  Rebecca: A selling point of IU is that you can tailor your training.  Janice: Minors continue to grow at IUPUI, some schools have minors within the school but some are very outside-oriented. Broad support for minors, a feature used to attract talented students. More than 40 minors and growing as way to provide broader education and to generate revenue. Many minors will have a smattering of courses from 4-5 other units. Minor title looks good on transcript.  Mary: That is how it has been working for the diversity committees.  Margaret: very valuable  **OUTCOME: GIC committee will take this on** |
| Reports from Committees | Awards Committee: [Lessie for Karen] Wells has been awarded. Excellent work resulted in 2 awards being made.  Diversity Issues Committee: [Stacy] Still looking for attrition data. How to calculate attrition? How do you know who is just taking time off vs. who has dropped?  Graduate Initiatives Committee: [Scott] Working on survey. Next step is to finish IRB. Committee interest in helping provide resource for efforts to launch interdisciplinary programs  Academic Policy Committee: [Rebecca] Auditing courses. IUB campus concerns that students wait until end of semester to change from taking course for credit to auditing. Creates problems for Registrar. It is becoming a pervasive problem.  IUB Students (Lucas): no report  IUPUI Students (Justin): wrapping up satisfaction survey | David: Methods for figuring attrition are available  Mary: language for committee name change? |
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| Adjournment | 3:33 |  |