**Indiana University Graduate Faculty Council**

**October 22, 2018**

**3:30 – 5:00 pm**

Present: Margaret Bauer, Janice Blum ,Dominique Galli,Tabitha Hardy, Fred Pavalko, Barbara Pierce, Patrick Rooney, Alan Bender, Lessie Frazier, Lisa Gershkoff-Stowe, Stacie King, Jane McLeod, Massimo Ossi, Scott Shackelford, Rebecca Slotegraaf, Mary Waldron, Ken Guerra, James Wimbush, David Daleke, Janice Blum, Jeff Rutherford, Mary Bourke, Edwina Helton, Scooter, Pegram, Terry Shepherd, and Diane Wille

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| **TOPIC** | **ITEMS/DISCUSSIONS** | **OUTCOMES/DECISIONS** |
| Approval of minutes from Council meeting on September 17, 2018 |  | Minutes approved with minor corrections |
| Updates from the Dean | The RFP for Graduate eApp proposals was issued at the end of September and was issued for six weeks. Vendors are considering the RFP and putting proposals together. At the same time, UITS is putting together their own assessment of the costs of building an IU version of the Graduate eApp. By the middle of November, we should have a vendor or a decision to build our own eApp. A letter will go out to stakeholders informing them of the progress of the process and that the process should conclude sometime within the next few weeks. The recommendations of the Task Forces were considered. Additional Task Forces are working on different components of the eApp and they will continue to seek input from stakeholders. The letter will assure stakeholders that necessary support will be available as IU transitions to the new eApp.  At the beginning of October, the Dean attended the AAU Graduate Deans meeting. The dilemma regarding international students was discussed. Students are experiencing very long delays in getting visas, and there are more students than before being denied visas. This is due to the new process and the heightened scrutiny that is being applied federally. Another topic of discussion was the critical issue of mental health of students. Scooters that have begun to appear on campuses was an unexpected topic. Discussion focused on who was implementing policies concerning scooters. However, this led to a serious conversation about policies in general.  The Dean attended the Indiana Graduate Dean meeting. Through conversations about graduate programs, the Dean noted that every single graduate program is different. While there were some similarities, the four schools represented at the meeting were doing things differently. It was hoped to have wider discussion with more staff from graduate programs. Despite the differences, the graduate schools had common problems, common issues, and common issues unique to the state of Indiana.  The April 15th Indiana University Resolution states that all institutions that are signatories to the resolution will not require students to accept financial aid with admission until April 15th. The idea behind this is to make sure that students have the opportunity to explore the full range of options they received from other institutions and make the best decision that works for them. Too often, institutions want a commitment from students almost immediately after they have been accepted into a program. IU is a signatory and the resolution does apply to all graduate programs with the exception of professional programs. | Information only |
| Discussion Items | a. Two members volunteered as Marshalls for the IU Winter Commencement.  b. Mental Health Offerings at IU: The mental health offerings at IU are difficult to find through graduate websites. Other sites, like the IU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), do not seem to relate to graduate students. Resources are sporadic at best. While graduate students at the doctoral level and master’s level may have some support from other students, online programs have distinctive issues for graduate students. Since students do not meet face-to-face in online programs, the support group may not be there. What kind of resources and directions should be provided for online programs? Most of the activities related to graduate student health and wellness go through the IU Graduate Mentoring Center. Both the IU Mentoring Center and CAPS needs some fine tuning in making resources available. There is also an initiative to provide mental health wellness resources/training to graduate faculty. Resources and training materials for faculty would be helpful. Maybe some language similar to IU School of Medicine about mental health could be added to syllabi. Due to the lack of resources available, there is a real need for targeted services for graduate students. The Graduate School is working with CAPS to help update their site.  c. Mental Health Activities at Other Big 10 Universities. The University of Michigan has a CAPS website specific to graduate students. Within the site, they had graduate-to-graduate student videos, and they also had information for parents.  Family leave does not usually apply because even if graduate students are employed by the university. They usually do not have enough hours to qualify. Does family leave apply to mental health and wellness issues?  The Graduate Initiatives Committee can look at the different family medical leave policies. The group should examine best practices, and identify specific items that would be important to include on University Graduate websites.  d. Frequency in Revisiting Academic Policies: Bringing topics up for discussion on email makes it challenging for the committee because the discussion is not recorded in the minutes, and cannot be referred to at a later date. It better to keep discussion in committees. The PhD minor was raised via email, a topic that was discussed in 2015, 2016, and 2017. The item was discussed extensively in those three years, and included surveys in 2016 and 2017. There was vote among administrators of doctoral programs across campus as whether they wanted to retain minors or make changes. The highest percentage was in favor of retaining the minor. Instead of revisiting the topic frequently, the Academic Policy Committee should discuss how frequently academic policies should be reconsidered. | Information Only  Discussion: How can support and resources be provided for the mental health and wellness of graduate students?  Information Only  Discussion: Can family medical leave support graduate students with mental health issues?  Action: The GIC will examine the different family medical leave policies and how it can help graduate students with mental health issues.  Information Only  Action: APC should discuss how frequently academic policies should be reconsidered. |
| Standing Reports from Committees | * Academic Policy Committee: Has not met. * Awards Committee: Has not met. * Diversity Issues Committee: Convened via email on how to collect data on the use of GRE scores and graduate admissions. The committee agreed to send out surveys about current practices, and follow up the surveys with some in-depth interviews. The committee thought it would be best to send the survey to directors of graduate studies and graduate programs. The committee will need to decide when to send the survey. * Graduate Initiatives Committee: Met virtually with an email discussion about graduate stipends and policies determining how stipends are awarded. The Committee will also discuss policies on mental health. It would be helpful to look at the methods and policies created by the IU School of Medicine. * Student Representatives: Working with them on student funding. Looking at the bigger picture of how students are paying for their graduate education. | Information Only |
| New Business | None |  |
| Adjournment | 5:05 |  |