

Graduate Faculty Council Minutes

Monday, February 4, 2013

3:30-5:00pm

Video Bridge 245665

Bloomington, Kirkwood Hall 114
Indianapolis, University Library 1170B
East, Whitewater WZ 119
Fort Wayne (by MOVI)

Kokomo, Main Bldg KO 111
Northwest, Hawthorne HH 105
Southeast, Crestview Hall 028A
South Bend, Northside Hall 038

Those present were Jacqueline Blackwell, David Daleke (Ex-officio), Deborah Finkel, John Hassel, Gail Hickey, Eric Isaacson, Sharon Sims, James Wimbush (Ex-officio).

Those absent were Shirley Aamidor, Simon Atkinson, George Bodmer, Maria Bucur-Deckard, Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Alyce Fly, Britney-Shea Herbert, Kevin Hunt, Kathy Johnson, Luise McCarty, Vicky Meretsky, Jill Murrell, Kate Myers, Martha Oakley, Sara Pryor, P.N. Saksena, Marty Siegel, Maxine Watson (Ex-officio), James Williams, Marianne Wokeck.

Old Business:

Gail Hickey called the meeting to order; and asked if there were any changes to the minutes of November 5, 2012 meeting. There were none; therefore, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes (Isaacson moved, Sims seconded). The minutes were approved.

Dean's Report:

James Wimbush pointed out that Sherry Queener was not able to attend due to her husband's surgery and care; and he wished her the best.

Dean Wimbush reported there have been several initiatives set forth by the President. Most importantly, the President is now focused on graduate education. This may be due, in part, to the new Bloomington Provost's interest in graduate education as part of her new responsibilities and to enhance graduate education at IU.

- Dean Wimbush is part of a group which gave a report to a Vice Provost group which generated great interest in graduate education. And when Dean Wimbush made a presentation to the President's Cabinet meeting in October, there was great interest there as well.
- There are wonderful discussions underway in the university regarding several aspects of graduate education including how to reduce time-to-degree and how to make students more marketable. This interest will enhance doctoral programs at Bloomington and IUPUI and will distinguish us from many other institutions.
- The President has three other initiatives, mostly focused on undergraduate education: financial literacy; online education; and career counseling and advising.
 - Dean Wimbush reported that he is part of team which looked at graduate career counseling and academic advising. The team presented a proposal to the Bloomington Provost last week which included providing career counselors for the humanities, social sciences, physical, earth and health sciences as well as a

series of workshops for first year graduate students through to doctoral students. On February 21, the team will present to the Bloomington Deans for their input and will later receive further direction from the Provost. There is a similar group at IUPUI; and the Dean is hoping there is a piece regarding graduate career counseling there as well.

- In regard to financial literacy, Dean Wimbush met with the Director and Assistant Director of the Office of Financial Literacy. He feels we have an opportunity for collaboration among the University Graduate School, Dan Rives (Associate Vice President for Human Resources), and the Office of Financial Literacy regarding ways to reduce graduate student debt. There are funds available from TIAA-CREF through the Council of Graduate Schools for initiatives related to financial graduate education and ways to reduce graduate student debt. He feels we are in a good position to create a proposal which will be attractive to reviewers.
- In regard to online education, there is a huge component for graduate professional-degree development. The President made it clear that all schools are to have at least one program online which was aimed mostly at professional programs, but Dean Wimbush feels it is inevitable that we will have some of our academic programs online as well.
- Sherry Sims commented regarding online education. She offered that we now have the opportunity to 1) challenge our current conceptions of online education in graduate school programming and 2) to challenge the other side of that by asking of what value is our presence. On one hand, why do we continue to argue about whether or not a student overseas can come to a defense via technology? If we don't challenge that in a useful way, there's no point in having a doctoral program online. There is value to physical face-to-face presence, but we don't know what that is. We need to discuss what we build to have education in the physical and what we build by having it online. That would be a good discussion.
- Dean Wimbush responded that that discussion has been an agenda item for the Graduate Council. Currently we make rare exceptions to the defense-in-person policy, but we definitely want the Graduate Council to weigh in on the issue.
- Eric Isaacson offered that he is a member of a group, Leadership IU, which is comprised of delegates from professional schools. He reported that this committee will be making a presentation to the Provost in mid-February. Kelly Direct is very active and a number of other schools. He stated we should act quickly if we want to get in on the conceptual and policy-making discussions.

New Business:

As chair of the Awards Committee, Eric Isaacson, reported that the committee has only two active members; and it is time to review fourteen Kinsley Award applications. He asked for volunteers to review applications. John Hassel volunteered although he won't be available for the period, March 16 to April 8. The committee will begin the review process in the next day or two.

Gail Hickey asked for a motion to adjourn (Blackwell moved, Sims seconded). The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jody Smith