**Minutes from Graduate College Council (GCC) meeting on Nov 14th, 2022**

Meeting called to order 3:30 PM

Paul Laux, Amy Griffin; Barbara Settles; Ikramul Huq; Emily Davis; Joseph Fox; Lisa Jaremka; Bernadette Racicot; Frances Kwansa; Thanduanlung Kamei; Sanaz Taherzadeh; Siyan Wang; Jesus Botello; James Korman; Margaret Werth; Myae Han; Caroline Williams; Joanne Miller; Michael Michaud; Veer Nair; Elise Corbin; LaRuth McAfee; David Burris; Maria Anne Purciello; Shannon Robson; Louise Bank; Libbey Bowen; Ramona Neunuebel; Cynthia Rechsteiner; Marlaina Kloepfer; Kelli Kerbawy; Nigel Caplan; Lea Asti; Dean Rossi; Delight Morehead; Samuel Lee; Julie Maresca; Lindsay Naylor; Andrew Teplyakov; Ismat Shah; Deb Jaisi

Dean Lou Rossi’s Report:

* Clarification on the annual report. Key highlights: growth in international applications, services to our graduate student population, innovation in graduate education and research, and growth in grad revenue (the last item was not in the report).
* Diversity wise:URM has slightly increased from 2018 to 2022 (10.9 to 12.0%)- which is a positive sign. The total number of students increased from 4,164 and 4,465 in that time window.
* Central service to graduate students: Graduate diversity welcome mixer, professional development, Spark symposium. These services have helped channel students to their career possibilities and choices. Among them, the graduate student voices program have a robust infrastructure to support graduate students.
* Innovation in the graduate program: seven stand-alone interdisciplinary programs, 90 matriculated students (which includes certification programs as well).
* University to business partnership: JPMC, Learners, engineering, Christina Care, Incyte, Metro North, State of Delaware.
* Graduate college goals: enhance the graduate experience. What are we doing to achieve excellence: through developing community, opportunity for professional development, recruiting and training, and supporting graduate research.
* Postdoctoral leadership program- two postdocs in the university are partially supported and do various social and professional programming for postdocs. Postdocs can participate in Spark and A to I (Accelerate to Industry) program available to them.

(details of these are included in the Dean’s ppt slides included at the end of this minutes)

Committee and working groups:

1) Interdisciplinary Programs Committee. Mary Martin provided information about the current programs including those that were present before the start of graduate college. Six different programs were present in before the inception of Graduate College, two of them (microbiology and water science and policy) have now moved into GC, but the four others are still within the interdisciplinary grad program in different colleges (as they have the option to move to grad college or stay where they are). Two certificate programs (graduate community engagement certificate and sustainability graduate certificate) were both approved by the committee. This committee reviews the proposal of new programs and recommends them to GC and then to the faculty senate for approval. The new ‘Leadership and social innovation’ certification is in the process of review. There are few vacancies in this committee, and expected that those positions be filled.

2) Student Life Committee. Ryan Zurakowski provided an update on this committee. The committee sought to address problems that show up in graduate student life and seek solutions and possible recommendations. Graduate student housing, advisor-mentorship relationship, and a number of other issues with international graduate students. Graduate students' mental health is also raised in the discussion. Due to staffing issues in UD health services, the counseling service was referred to outside (local counselors). The activation barrier was significant going out for the counseling services. Communication issues were one of the problems in making that happen.

GCC intends to invite the VP for Student Health and Wellness for the state of service provided in the intention and the plan. The Dean indicated pulling in the committee for such discussion in the future as it is unclear if this is an international or bilingual issue.

3) Re-constitution of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. The executive committee discussed the mission and action of this committee in terms of being unique to the graduate college and the apparent lack of activity in the past two years. The chair appointed Linsay Naylor to the committee as the start-up point person for this work.

Working groups:

1) Family-friendly working group. Emily Davis, the chair, will report in Dec meeting.

2) Graduate funding working group: 12-member team led by Joe Fox. Some of the topics included graduate housing, public transportation, parking, and 12-month stipend for the graduate students. Local rent increased by 50% in Newark, the highest end in the country. Compared to five year before, additional 1,800 students are in the local rental market, which has <6000 rental units. Due to the rental increase, the 12-month graduate stipend is effectively worth $ 5,500 less compared to 2017 (inflation-adjusted). Because of this, UD is facing unprecedented challenges in recruiting graduate students especially from the disadvantaged population. Dear Rossi talked about the housing for international students has been his and the college’s priority. Many of the committee members brought this repeatedly that the housing problem requires movement on this agenda. The Dean asserted that the student life master plan is being drafted at the university and housing is in it.

Other points discussed were the timing and charging of the student fee and the potential penalty for late payment. Fees are due on Aug 31, but the stipend won't be there until mid-Sept. The Dean made it clear that there is no fee if there is a payroll deduction and the student is in the contract. Dr. Martin clarified there is no fee until Sept 30th. Fees in the installment of payments and credit cards were also raised- but no further discussion.

3) Graduate student Caucus. Samantha Akridge talked about current efforts to connect with GCC committees: Iranian student issues, graduate student spaces, housing support, and stigma around addiction (certified recovery ally program- collegiate recovery committee at Warner Hall), but it is not open to graduate students.

New business item on the floor:

Timing for the student fee- which was discussed above (second paragraph of #2)- which appeared to be partially correct.

Ombudsman as an advocate. Voted twice for the need of office by the Faculty Senate and Student Student Government.

Other voted resolutions in GSP were increasing parental leave for graduate students (from the current 6 to 8 weeks). These resolutions will be discussed in the new GC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 04:42 PM