**Minutes from Graduate College Council (GCC) meeting on February 13, 2023**

Meeting called to order 3:30 PM

Agenda approved.

Minutes amended to include Andrew Teplyakov in attendance. So amended and approved.

Paul Laux, Andrew Teplyakov, Delight Morehead, Thanduanlung Kamei, Constantin Bacuta, Jesus Botello, Nigel Caplan, Mary Martin, Ismat Shah, Emily Davis, James Korman, Cynthia Rechsteiner, Samantha Akridge, Myae Han, Silyan Wang, Shannon Robson, Carolina Williams, Elise Corbin, Kelli Kerbawry, Rebecca Pompon, Ryan Zurakowski, Maria Purciello, Francis Kwansa, Margaret Werth, Michael Michaud, Danilo Yanich, Mark Blenner, Marlina Kloepfer, Dean Rossi, Aviva Heyn, Jeff Buler, Samuel Lee, LaRuth McAfee, Bill Repetto, Rebecca Davis, Jill Higginson, Jacqueline Washington, Eva Alfoldi, Louise Bank,

Sanaz Teherzadeh, Rae Chresfield

Executive committee in favor of ECC meetings on Zoom for the Spring.

Dean Lou Rossi’s Report:

* Min grad student stipend going up by at least 3% next year. 9 Month stipend to go from 22K to 22,660 as of Sept. 2023 and prorated for 12-month contracts ($30,213).
* Housing update for fall 2023.
  + Tough market with tight availability.
  + Google group for sharing rental experiences and challenges
  + UD attempting to secure a Masters lease for 1st years (particularly international students). UD leases a large block, then rents to students.
  + Long term, some support at upper levels for university owned grad housing (build 3-4 year time line needed or buy)

Student center space for grad students

* Perkins East Lounge as pilot
* Allison, 2nd floor room to be remodeled to flex space for Grad Students
* Grad College Job board for opportunities
* Stellic: Unidel supporting proposal (better and cheaper than what used) Course scheduling, degree progress and planning, degree checks, advising being phased in. Multi year project for degree checking.
* College-level conversations with Deans. Grad college amassing data on wellbeing and strength of portfolios, grad student satisfaction, etc.

Committee Check-ins

* Interdisciplinary Program Committee (Mary Martin) – meeting this week, 2 proposals. Need finalization of committee members.
* Student Life (Ryan Zurakowski)
  + Louis and Ray met with director of student health regarding mental health access. No longer pushing for outside care management now that have better staffing
  + Pre-existing management outside and long-term care need to be referred to outside for continuity of care
    - Better communication planned by student health services
  + 3 more meetings this year focused on
    - Improving mentorship
    - Issues to improve international student onboarding
* Faculty Grad Students Relation Working Group (Paul Laux)
  + Group formed. Dan Yanick, bill report to Grad student president Mary Dozier
    - 6 people: Paul Laux, Dan Yanick, Carolyn Williams grad student rep., Bill Repeto grad student council, Mary Dozier Grad student president
  + Francis Kwansa, ex council for AAUP, question regarding grad student greviance officer. Is there a place or somebody that grad students can go to when they have an issue? Feedback to go back to AAUP
    - Paul: This is one of the gaps in the system and Faculty Grad Relations Group is sensitive to it. Daniel Yanic has a long term connection with this and you may check in with him as well.

Grad Student Representatives Caucus Check-In

* Michael Michaud – collecting and collating grad housing info for international students, encouraging Grad student involvement in Faculty Senate, legislation passed to prevent bird strikes, creating more sustainable food access for students, and establishing grad student awards

Vote on approval of EC recommendations for new members of Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee (Paul Laux).

Sam Lee for CHS

Federica Bianca Biden School (CAS).

1. es to both new members

Dr. Rae Chresfield, Assoc. VP Student Wellness and Health.

* February launch of TimelyCare Telehealth option to access licensed therapist to assist CCSD and not replace CCSD
  + Give students ability to access a licensed therapist as well as a health coach
  + Talk now 24/7, ability to talk right not to turn a hot moment down (unlimited)
  + Access to 9 theraputic sessions over an academic year through licensed professionals
    - Students can still be in touch with their clinician even if went home, i.e., not bound by state laws in which the professional is licensed in
    - Grad students do not have to pay to have access to 9 sessions
  + Health coach (unlimited)
* TimelyCare Emergent issues elevated to CCSD/UDPD as appropriate, i.e., in cases in which individual may not be able to keep themselves safe

https://sites.udel.edu/counseling/timelycare/

* + Continue care from primary therapist
  + CCSD has quality assurance person that liaises with TimelyCare to ensure timely issues are addressed
  + Faculty expressed may not know what to do in a crisis situation. CCSD is putting forth messaging for students and will post information designed for faculty
  + CCSD also reaching out student group leadership, looking for intersections that students are existing and may need communication for continuity of care. Staff to ask question or report behaviors
* Revising webpage
* Safe spaces
* Exercise as medicine – looking at other ways to integrate and impact student health
* CCSD is still building out additional staff and also staff of wellbeing units

Ismat Shah: can we do something like what we did for LGBTQ… for those faculty that are appropriately trained , can place stickers or the like on their doors as a safe space to talk. Dr. Chresfield would like to have further conversations to explore this point.

William Repetto: can we doing more to lessen the clinical mental health problems that we see on campus? Chresfield: Even those who’ve had everything needed to be successful still develop severe mental illness. A beginning is to know what you all see is happening, what is coming up in office hours? What are some of the themes that you are seeing in labs, classrooms that are changing over time? What do you need now to support yourselves and your students. Human beings change. Rather than educating folks that this may be an aspect of their lived experience, I think the message has been… you are anxious, your are depressed vs. you live with anxiety or depression. On the wellbeing end, we need more education for students around what is going on vs. this is who you are and you are permanently broken. Would like to know what is happening for each of us, then build out trainings, workshops, conversations on how to address.

Jill Higginson: This is an important conversation that ties in nicely to the other section of this meeting regarding processes to handle student grievances. I like what was said regarding creating safe spaces in faculty offices within departments if possible. Beyond that, can we collectively decide what is an appropriate response, consequence, repercussions, strategy for those who may not be our best faculty advisors… i.e., those that may be contributing to the problem? May be an ongoing long-term conversation. Tired of being the innocent bystander…time for us to do something. Chresfield: Many folks do not have to be convinced, however, I see opportunities… Some of the best work I have seen is engaging with people who see things in a different way. Those trustees less willing have said things like “Why aren’t they resilient, why don’t they just get over everything? I’ve turned things around … “let’s talk about what the world looked like when you were getting over things, how do you define getting over? When seemingly getting no where, have asked “Do you care? …and in what ways are you willing to demonstrate care?” Perhaps it is with silence. So it is an opportunity to train students, because students do not always know that everybody doesn’t understand mental health concerns and how to respond to people out of not knowing. Sometimes it in not that great.

Paul Laux: This conversation opens a lot of doors. Maybe the executive committee can talk about what kind of connections we can make between CCSD and our faculty group. I hear Bill REpeto lout and clear… what do you need? The faculty are concerned to answer that question, in addition to the students, and your cautious optimism that things can be done could be infectious.

Chresfield: I am happy to have these conversations and to participate. This is the joyful part of my work. I really love working with students, but this is also a community. If we address all the layers of the community, that is when we really start to see some change.

Ismat Shah: There should be some periodic meetings like this…either in this format or another. Without this kind of dialect it will be difficult to proceed, so we are to establish some sort of formant so we can continue to do this.

Paul Laux: Today was getting the big picture. I talked about processing it with the Ex. Committee, unsure of timing, but maybe we can come back with specific parts that are discussed more pointedly on an agenda.

No new business:

Adjournment: 4:39