**GCC Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2024**

The meeting was held via Zoom, and called to order at 3:30 pm.

**In attendance:** Delight Morehead, Melissa Witman, Jorge Soares, Alan Parkes, Louis Rossi (Dean), Jessica Sowa, Samuel Lee (GCC President), Danilo Yanich, Elise Corbin, Sanaz Taherzadeh, Ben Stanley, Ivan Todorov, Michael Jung, Shannon Robson, Jay Coughenour, Than Kamei (Thanduanlung Kamei), James Korman, Deb Jaisi, Myae Han (Mee-a), Tim Webb, Dawn Elliott, Mieke Eeckhaut, Jesús Botello, Andrew Teplyakov, Samantha Akridge, Owen White, LaRuth McAfee, Jia Song, Jacqueline Washington, Heather Justison, Margaret Werth, Amy Griffin, Eva Alfoldi, Matthew Van, Mary Martin, Matthew Van, Eva Alfoldi

**Approval of March Meeting Minutes**

* + The item was tabled until the March meeting minutes are ready to circulate.

1. **Dean’s Report – Lou Rossi**

* Graduate Student Appreciation Week, April 1-5, 2024.
  + Many successful events were held over the course of the week, including scavenger hunt, Coffee Hour with Dean Rossi, grad student happy hour at Grain and more.
  + Full itinerary here: <https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/grad/current-students/graduate-student-life/grad-appreciation-week/>
* Operation Rudy
  + Spending focused on “student facing” programs and revenue
  + Considering competitive funding by program, such as Graduate Scholars, Graduate Doctoral Excellence, etc.
* Update on graduate student stipends
  + Stipends will be $24,500 for 24-25, and then planning for $27,000 the following year.
  + These stipends are 9-month contracts
* UD Faculty Senate Budget Committee
  + Dean Rossi mentioned that this committee wants information about the return on investment (ROI) of the Graduate College.
    - Dean Rossi mentioned that this committee may be concerned about Grad College staff growth
    - The Dean believes we have about 50 full-time staff members; and mentioned that the College has added 2.3 more people since its creation in 2019.

1. **Questionnaire – Ben Stanley**
   * A questionnaire created by “Ben and group” is to be soon approved by the GCC Executive Committee.
     + Questionnaire is to be addressed to Department Chairs and Faculty with regard to the incorporation of graduate student mentoring into merit pay metrics.
2. **GCC Bylaws – Samuel Lee**
   * Samuel Lee, Paul Laux, and Emily Davis are doing a review of the GCC Bylaws.
     + Several changes were lightly discussed including who can be GCC Secretary and about extending the term of the GCC Chair to 2 years.
   * UD Faculty Senate is currently slated to re-approve GCC Bylaws at the end of this semester.
     + UD Faculty Senate is requesting changes to GCC Bylaws by April 29, 2024
   * There was much discussion about proposing a resolution to delay the review of the GCC Bylaws by the UD Faculty Senate until Spring 2025.
   * **A motion was made, seconded, and approved to seek a delay in the GCC Bylaw review process to Spring 2025**. The motion passed unanimously (without any verbal dissent).
3. **Committee and Leadership Members Needed – Samuel Lee**
   * Student Life Committee needs 2 members
   * College of Engineering needs 1 member on the Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee.
   * Discussion followed on term lengths.
     + It was noted that GCC members may have 2 year terms
4. **Graduate Student Caucus – Sanaz Taherzadeh**
   * Colleges can handle their own library orientations; library has (or can nicely provide) orientation webinars focused on each College
     + Samuel Lee responded to speak to someone about library resources/training for graduate students
   * There was the mention of the need for an Ombudsperson as an intermediary between the GCC and Graduate Student Caucus.
   * There was a request for Graduate College data regarding graduate student attrition rates
     + Want data to hopefully identify patterns/characteristics/circumstances that lead to attrition.
     + Dean Rossi responded that he would be happy to provide summary statistics.
     + Dean Rossi noted that the Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Life (Katie) is no longer at UD and the current hiring freeze may make replacement difficult in the near future.
5. **New Business**
   * Dawn Elliott mentioned that she could volunteer to be on the GCC Bylaw Committee.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:40.**