

# Graduate Affairs Committee Minutes

November 4, 2014  
1:30-3:00 p.m.  
UL 1170

Meeting called by: Dr. Janice Blum

Attendees: Janice Blum (Chair), Randy Brutkiewicz, Susan Cauble, Thomas Davis, Gregory Druschel, Patricia Ebright, Charlie Feldhaus, Richard Gregory, Monica Henry, Karl MacDorman, Jennifer Mahoney, NaShara Mitchell, Jacquelyn O'Palka, David Peters, Patrick Rooney, Randall Roper, John Schild, David Skalnik, James Wimbush, Andrew Winship, Constantin Yiannoutsos;  
Staff: Dezra Despain

Guests: Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, Derrick Tillman-Kelley

## Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for September 30, 2014

Blum

### Discussion Items:

- Updates on deadlines for block grants, graduate student fellowships and other awards

A document outlining deadlines will be sent out to committee members.

- Sherry Queener Graduate Student Excellence Award
  - It's for one Ph.D. student and one master student
  - \$1,000 each. This will be disbursed via a cash award.
  - The criteria are mainly based on academic parameters such as GPA, research presentation, but also service learning awards students may have received.
  - One student in each category can be nominated by each school. We will ask for a dossier, two letters; one from the dean and one additional letter of support.
  - Deadline is March 2.
  - We hope to send out guidelines by January 2015.
- We'll be working on the travel fellowships, but there are also other initiatives:
  - Chancellors Scholar Award
  - Plater Award for Civic Engagement
  - President's Graduate Diversity Fellowships
  - President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship
  - Adam W. Herbert Graduate Fellowship
  - John H. Edwards Fellowship
  - Links to these will be on the Graduate Office website. Those that are shared between all campuses in the IU system will eventually be on the University Graduate School website and a link will be provided.
- Midwest Association of Graduate Schools
  - Excellence in Innovation in Graduate; a program award. One nomination from both IUPUI and IU Bloomington
  - Distinguished Thesis Award is offered every two years.
  - Information on these will be provided.

- Campus Strategic Initiative

A strategic plan document was passed out to GAC members, Refining a Strategic Plan to Increase Capacity for Graduate Education. Please review this document and share it with faculty who may be interested in participating. Also, the same document can be found in form format on the Graduate Office website: <http://graduate.iupui.edu/faculty-staff/affairs-committee/strategic-plan-form.shtml> Members/faculty can indicate if they are interested in participating in a committee via this form.

The deadline to present the results of the strategic plan committees to EVC Paydar is May, which means the

committee deadline is April.

Attached to these minutes is a document that outlines the committee charge to Dr. Sherry Queener and the results of their committee. It then goes on to discuss possibilities on how to refine a strategic plan to increase capacity for graduate education 2015-2020. Please review the document for specific information. These are seed ideas and can be modified and changed.

Dr. Terrell Strayhorn\*

Dr. Strayhorn wrote College Students' Sense of Belonging, which focused mainly on undergraduate students' success; however there is a chapter that looks at graduate students' sense of belonging. What evidence do we have that belonging contributes to graduate success?

Many universities across the nation are paying close attention to a very strong pivot for graduate students. Over the last 5-7 years, associations such as the American Council Education (ACE) asked, beyond enrollment and degree production, what do we know about graduate degree students?

A lot of pathways have been built from undergraduate education to graduate education, e.g. the iPrep, the McNair trio, etc. The undergraduates have been convinced to go to graduate school. A consumer model has emerged and through this the undergraduates get to dictate what they expect; fitness centers, fancy facilities, and more. In exchange for tuition, they expect perks. As the undergraduates mature, they become graduate students and have undergraduate expectations on the graduate level. First year undergraduate students are catered to and bring that expectation to subsequent years and on up into their graduate education.

Washington State invested a couple of million dollars to build a graduate life center. The hotel was renovated into this center and the rooms became student apartments. Downstairs had food courts, laundry, computer rooms, etc. Faculty also had a space in which to live and work and to conduct intellectual life among these students.

This encouraged subsequent universities and colleges to do the same.

Professional associations are noticing that they need more diversity.

Graduate students see a need to be able to come together and commune with their peers, to work together and discuss their education/life. This trend suggests that in the next 5-7 years all of us will be discussing how to build community and to care about graduate students beyond enrollment.

Millennials are today's graduate students. There are several characteristics that distinguish these students from previous generations. Millennials feel special and entitled. The argument is that this generation grew up during the K-12 reform movement where teachers were not to give students negative feedback. Praise and celebration of effort was encouraged. Millennials are optimistic. Ninety-six percent said they could be president one day. There's a disconnect between the feedback that student's receive about their abilities versus what they think is possible for themselves. Millennials don't want social acceptance, they expect it. When they come to graduate school, they will expect these same things.

Discussion:

This is the kind of future we will be facing in recruitment, retention, and graduation. What's our view of diversity? Is it racial, ethnic, gender, disability, something else? Cross disciplines; bring students together and encourage them to have meals together, to work together, to discuss things together.

In the public sector, some of the larger companies have campuses that cater to the worker. For example, they have onsite childcare, workout facilities, and other activities so that the employee can take a break. So, if the undergraduate experience is catering to the needs of the student...then there's graduate education...then the employer caters to the need of the employee, something needs to be done with the graduates.

The School of Science and School of Medicine recently announced they will collaborate with Eli Lilly & Company for the Lilly Graduate Research Advanced Degrees program (LGRAD). This program helps Lilly employees obtain advanced degrees. Lilly has everything available on site; banks, dry cleaners, etc. The Lilly students will come here and see what we have and our interns will go there and see what they have. We need to provide the best resources so that students can see that we are just as supportive as commercial businesses.

Is the sense of community that graduate students are looking for a broader sense of community or a more specific sense of community?

Ultimately both will emerge in order for students to thrive. The first sense of community should be established within the program, but then can be expanded to outside disciplines. Students from multiple disciplines here on the IUPUI campus discovered that they have many of the same concerns; they need advice in seeking a job; they question whether in the end will this be worth it; they make decisions to do things they care about but don't get full support from people who think their decision is an important part of their master or doctoral experience; they don't see people who look like them, and more. If belonging matters, it must be satisfied. Students want to know that they matter—belonging matters.

Dr. Strayhorn is speaking on campus. His talks will be archived.

#### Committee Discussion:

Graduate space is important. It's difficult to find and finance it, but look for possibilities. In Bloomington, the library created a space called the Graduate Commons. It gets used a lot. The furniture is movable so they can create the type of setting that they need.

At IUPUI, there is a small space in the library with 13 carrels available for graduate students. It would be nice to move to a larger, more welcoming environment that other students from all over the campus can use. This can be part of the strategic plan.

There is a mentoring center being developed in Bloomington for graduate students that we at IUPUI can utilize. How can it help us? How can we tap into it?

In putting together the strategic plan, there are many things to think about.

What kind of new programs can be developed to attract graduate students? We can consider streamlining process of new program development and approval. What is a reasonable goal in growth? 20%, double, quadruple? Where is your school going? What are ways to look for new or improved external funding for graduate students?

Dr. Peters mentioned that it would be helpful to have more information on the budget. How are current resources being allocated?

Dr. Blum indicated that in the strategic plan, number values will be placed by each of the areas.

Another concern proposed by Dr. Peters is how to balance the strategic plan, which focuses on research, with Humanities and the Arts.

If a committee has a member that has this interest, then the arts and humanities will be better served through the planning process. It was mentioned that wellness is a good fit for arts and humanities; there must be a way to put arts and humanities into the strategic plan.

Dr. Rooney indicated the School of Philanthropy is building a new building and setting aside space for graduate students. If anyone has lessons on what not to do or to do, please let him know.

Dr. MacDorman saw two issues with expanding enrollments. One is quality of students, and the other constraint is money. Students can leverage offers from other universities depending upon the financial awards.

Dr. Blum agreed. We must be thoughtful and make sure that our Schools are on board with the financial awards.

Dr. Yiannoutsos thinks that so much is devolved to the schools and they don't have a lot of money. Potentially, 90% of Public Health students are foreign or out of state. It would be helpful to have scholarship that subsidizes out-of-state tuition. Not all schools can subsidize this. Can the university help?

Dr. Blum indicated that if enough programs have this concern, then it is something that we can try to put into the strategic plan.

Dr. MacDorman said that this is not handled consistently even within schools.

Dr. Rooney mentioned that the schools have the autonomy and can decide on how to disperse their funds. Philanthropy chooses to fund all their PhDs.

Not all schools feel that way, though.

The School of Nursing hired a financial person who puts together packages when they are trying to recruit. This person is employed by the university, but 50% is with the School of Nursing and 50% is with the financial aid office. There are multiple ways to use sources of funding. This person helps pull together the various ways they can package their funding for various students and can offer those students who have offers from other universities a package that is competitive.

One of the initiatives could be about the sharing of these types of practices among multiple programs.

There is a very competitive market out there. We need to keep on top of what is going on around us.

\*Dr. Strayhorn is Director of the Center for Higher Education Enterprise and Professor of Higher Education in the Department of Educational Studies within the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University. His research identifies factors that enable or inhibit the success of historically underrepresented and misrepresented populations in education.

Dr. Strayhorn is visiting IUPUI as a speaker for the IU Trailblazers and Innovators series funded by the President's Graduate Diversity Initiative.

Next Meeting and Adjournment (November 25, 1:30 pm, UL 1126)