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

Meeting called to order 3:30 PM

Agenda approved.

Minutes 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:

* Housing Update for fall 2023
  + Google group is active
    - Students able to request inclusion on link to the google group on student life website
  + Master lease (18 units + 5 rental homes for students with dependent children). Unable to get more: taken or property owners have limitations on their mortgage
    - Will start earlier next year to get up to 50-100 units
    - Last year had 400+ incoming international students with no experience with the UD area housing market
    - Some UD owned properties included
  + Long-term goal is to for UD to build or buy
  + Grad college will disseminate info for master lease program via Slate
* Council of Grad schools 2003-2024 fed policy agenda
  + Fed student loans and financial aid
  + Priming Tax Policies to Support Graduate Education
  + Advancing American Research and Innovation
  + Promote the US through International
  + Promoting diversity, equity and inclusion
    - Not much attention is given to access for different abilities – UD to work on policy statement
* Minimum Stipends
  + UD data gathered for 2022-2023
    - 9 month pro-rated stipend (fall 22500 median, 23509 mean; spring 2023 22500 median, 23300 mean)
      * Saleem Ali: sponsored project budgets….
    - Comparator info min stipends for Fall 2023 that are also top decliners… re: students declining UD and going elsewhwere
      * **BU 38,235 12 month; 28690 9 month**
      * **UMD 33688; 25266**
      * Rutgers 33999, 22005
      * UD 3% increase 30213; 22660
    - UD losing to local consumer price index
    - 3% increase ($22.330): Cost $700k per year. Roughly, offloaded to $377,630 to sponsored projects per year.
      * A little more than half coming from sponsored projects
      * Remaining coming from the respective colleges
    - 9.09% increase ($24k): Cost $2,757,33 per year. Roughly, off loaded to $1,195,666 to sponsored projects per year.
      * Less than half will be offloaded to sponsored projects
    - What we do with stipend increases has to come from somewhere
  + Joseph Fox:
  + Ryan Zurakowski:
  + William Repetto: @ $24k, students still will be rent burdened; city council considering 3% tax to landlords, if passed then cost will filter down to students
  + Joanne Miller: big issue as an R1 institution – if reduce number of grad students, then faculty will follow
  + Jeff Buler: Grant budgets currently include 3% annual increases in stipend. Jumping up 9% may create problems for current research
  + Joanne Miller:

Interdisciplinary Program Proposals

* Jenn Johnston – Assoc. Dir. Grad Certificate Program for Computing and Data Science for Soft materials.
  + Mary Martin: ICC met on Feb 23rd, committee voted unanimously to be recommended as a certificate program under the Grad College.
  + Questions
  + Vote: yes 26, no 0, abstain 0
  + The proposal will move on to Faculty Senate
* Karen Stein –
  + Mary Martin: ICC met on … committee voted unanimously to be recommended as a certificate program under the Grad College
  + Vote: yes 19, no 0, abstain 1

Working group on Graduate Student Funding (Joseph Fox):

* Inflation:
* Stipend
* Fees: high and mandatory, some service of fees more catered to undergrads

Grad Student Caucus Update (Caroline Williams)

* Caucus affirms the recommendations from the Student Funding Working Group
  + Recommend using Living Wage Metrics based on location to compare to peer institutions
  + Will also be shared with GSG for support
* Continue to support GSG legislation for an Ombuds position that has been ongoing for 10 years

New Business

Joanne Miller – executive committee put up a motion to the council to support UD to hire an ombudsman