

Meeting Minutes
11/12/20

- Ryan Karl, *GSU President* introduced Dr. Laura Carlson, *Vice President and Associate Provost, Dean of the Graduate School*
- Progress was discussed about the Graduate School Task Force
 - Purpose of task force
 - To be responsive to issues in labs or research more generally across campus
 - How can we make sure we support you as fully as we can
 - A summary of Dean Carlson's slides on the task force recommendations can be found on the Graduate School website here:
<https://graduateschool.nd.edu/graduate-training/intellectual-community/mentoring-and-graduate-community/>
- Dr. Bob Bernhard, *Vice President of Research*
 - Research Task Force formed to help & support labs and studios
 - Lots of issues to resolve in a hurry this past March
 - Post crisis, other issues emerged
- From research perspective
 - Dec - Jan will be a high intensity time
 - 10-week break to help Grad students plan & get some things done
 - Grad students & Post Docs can eat at their desks
 - Additional guidance will be given to McCourtney due to large team spaces
 - Trying to be conservative & rational
 - Trying not to shut everything down
 - Trying to keep all safe
 - Feedback is welcomed
- Dean Carlson
 - Library carrels
 - Despite signs, can now bring food in
 - We want to hear about any issues
- Question from student Amy Kryston, *Civil & Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences*
 - Is there any thought about heated tents for Grad students only during Winter & Spring?
- Dean Carlson
 - Some tents are coming down
 - Not sure if remaining will be heated
 - Looking into possibility of conference room space
 - Will make the recommendation of Grad student only space
- Question from student Steven Dabelow, *Applied & Computational Math & Stats*
 - Regarding Exit testing, what is happening when students return especially from states that have high Covid numbers?

- Dean Carlson
 - Survey went out to determine when students are traveling & returning
 - Much more frequent testing in Spring is being considered
- Dr. Bernhard
 - We've made suggestions
 - Two types of returns for testing
 - After Thanksgiving
 - After Christmas
 - Appears to be enough testing capacity for these suggestions
- Question from student Amy Kryston
 - Is Graduate School helping parenting graduate students with child care?
- Peggy Hnatusko, *Program Director of Family Resource Center*
 - We predict there is approximately 1600 parenting or pregnant students
 - The University is very generous
 - Bright Horizons Back-Up care program
 - For Faculty, staff & Graduate Students
 - Through Human Resources
 - Provides short-term, last minute child & elder care services for low University-subsidized co-payments
 - PPSA
 - Pregnancy & Parenting Student Assistance Fund thru the [FRC](#)
- Comment from student Jennifer Dudley, *Sociology*
 - Bright Horizons was not helpful during virus. She hopes option includes child not going to a room with multiple kids.
- Dean Carlson
 - We're trying to get extra time & extra funding for grad students by talking with & working with advisors, etc. to try to find support if needed
- Dean Carlson
 - Chairs Emotional Support Well-Being task force
 - Formed due to Covid-19
 - Will be a permanent Mental Health committee
- Dr. John Lubker, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*
 - Changes to the Academic Code due to Covid-19
 - https://graduateschool.nd.edu/assets/281195/ga_academic_code.pdf
 - We're trying to figure out ways to expand coverage to spouses by reaching out to DGS & Grad students so people don't fall through the cracks.
 - Working with Faculty, DGSs & Grad students so that Grad students are receiving feedback annually & consistently.
- Dean Carlson
 - We'd love to find some committed Grad student space in Bond Hall
 - Vending
 - Study Spaces
- Demetra Schoenig, *Director Academic Enhancements*

- Welcomes feedback or suggestions regarding the Statement Against Mistreatment. [Slide is on Graduate School Website](#)
- Dr. Lubker
 - Ombudsperson
 - Mandatory Reporter
 - A lot of what we do comes out of the Grad Life survey that comes out every two years
- Question from student David Marshall, *Sacred Music*
 - What changes have been implemented regarding mental health care?
- Dean Carlson
 - The Here Campaign was created
 - Includes emotional support & well being
 - People are using this, we can see by click rate
 - Helping students in quarantine & isolation
 - Prepare & go thru their materials
 - Talked with them about re-entry
 - Ways to accommodate in classrooms
- Student Alan Costello, *Biological Sciences*
 - Megan Brown, *Director of McDonald Center for Student Well-Being*, facilitated Resilience 101 workshop series
 - More details on Alan's committee Chair report in this meeting's agenda packet
- Question from student Amy Kryston
 - A recent survey showed high rates of depression, etc. for undergraduates. Is there a broader conversation with faculty themselves other than emails? How much accountability for faculty? Is there additional incentives for faculty to help out students? Is there accountability in general?
- Dean Carlson
 - It's not just an email that goes out
 - Many conversations happen across the board
 - Deans, Chairs, Faculty, Chairs, etc.
 - Re: Accountability, there are annual reviews
- Question from Amy Kryston
 - Is there feedback from faculty? Have they adopted any of these recommendations? As I TA, I haven't see this.
- Dean Carlson
 - A survey will be going out to faculty after this semester
 - We encourage students not to take an overload of classes
- Question from student Eileen Morgan, *Medieval Studies*
 - Students can be encouraged to not take an overload of classes but Eileen chose to be home due to set up in classrooms not feeling comfortable & class was only offered in person. To compensate, had to move her schedule up due to behavior of others or option of classes. This dictates course load.

- Eileen realizes this is her choice however it was made due to trying to stay healthy.
- Dean Carson
 - Undergraduates are who she had in mind when talking about course load
 - Faculty mentor conversations hopefully helpful
 - We want to learn from the Fall semester for the Spring
 - Let Dr. Carlson know specifics of situations like Eileen's so she can help or facilitate change
- Dr. Lubker
 - There are Covid-19 exceptions, timeline extensions, etc.
- Dean Carlson
 - John is a good resource or your mentor or DGS
- Ryan thanked Dean Carlson & other Administrators from the Graduate School for their time this evening
- Approval of meeting minutes from October Council meeting
 - 33 yes
 - 0 opposed
- Meeting Minutes Approved
- Committee Reports were given by Chairs
- Suggestion from student Eileen Morgan
 - There is email overload especially things some students aren't interested in such as football emails for example.
- Break-Out Sessions, 15 minutes
- Question from student Steven Dabelow
 - Is there an update on the GSU Constitution?
- Ryan
 - Ad Hoc committee met
 - Each of the officers are looking at & working on different areas & meeting again
 - Hope to have optional Town Hall meeting to work through any questions or concerns prior to voting.
 - Draft will be sent out to Reps to review
 - Hope to have draft by end of Jan in order to vote at following (2) meetings
- Question from student Syeda "Fiana" Arbab, *Keough School of Global Affairs*
 - Is there an update on the letter regarding Fr. Jenkins' behavior?
- Mimi Beck, *Director of Grad Life*
 - Committee of 4 had a draft that was submitted in SAO360 last week. It's in process of review & approval. Should be soon.
- Fiana
 - We may want to update this letter since latest issue, double standard, with Fr. Jenkins reprimanding students
- Jonathan Takeshita, *GSU Co-Vice President*
 - Advised length of petition is getting extensive. Possibly a separate & longer statement as opposed to a petition.

- Fiana
 - I'm open to whatever the committee decides.
- Mimi
 - Reminder: [Thanksgiving Dinner tickets on sale NOW!](#)
 - Through Student Shop
 - Pick up & Take out from North Dining Hall
 - Last day to purchase tickets is November 18th.
 - Info is also on [GSU website](#)
- Motion to adjourn meeting
 - Motion was seconded
 - 21 Yes
 - 0 opposed
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

21 Departments were represented. Quorum was met