**Minutes PPBC 11/05/2020; Meeting over Zoom**

Present: David Rider (AMSEC/Chemistry, chair) John Gilbertson (Chemistry, scribe), Brady Foreman (Geology), Amy Anderson (Math), Brian Hutchinson (CS), Qiang Hao (SMATE/CS), Dietmar Schwarz (Biology), Kristen Larson (Physics), , Brad Johnson (Dean CSE, advisory, non-voting), John Misasi (Engineering), Jackie Caplan-Auerbach (Associate Dean CSE, Geology, advisory, non-voting),

**First order of business**. David Patrick (VP for Research, Dean of Graduate School) provided an update from RSP/Graduate School. The # of proposals during COVID-19 for summer research and teaching, is down ~40% from last year. Mini grant about same. RSP does expect a slowdown of grant submissions. Internal grants are back, restored to state of three to four years ago. RCA will monitor programs to see if proposal submission needs overlap with grant program objectives.

CSE has not gotten ICR distribution from last year and should be distributed soon. IDC (ICR) funds ~1 million comes into one fund for RSP, which is a holding account. Lots of moving parts for those financial commitments, which seem to exceed the revenue into that fund, so costs need to be moved.

 There are two open positions on RCA council, maybe one to two students for students as well.

Graduate Programs:

Many ramifications on thesis work, field work, and laboratory work due to COVID. DP presented some slides from Grad council. Graduate enrollment at WWU. Gradual decline in enrollment for decades, as well as the overall % of student population. These are opposite of statewide trend. CSE numbers look flat, small growths, but flat enrollment. Graduate enrollment is a focus in graduate school and GFGC. We are not serving the needs of the state, and the students are central to these programs. Need to start taking steps to turn this around today.

Fewer programs are admitting students and there are specific challenges to starting new programs. It is natural to be retiring programs but need to be introducing new ones. Also, uneven rates of participation of POC and women vs men. WWU has historically not provided a lot of support for marketing, recruitment, and admissions.

Enrolment/marketing importance for diversity, and diversity within disciplines. First priority of grad school is to simplify new program startup and streamline marketing materials for departments.

TA salaries are low relative to cost of living. Raising those has been major priority. This year stipends went up by 10%, WWU is on target to reach targeted stipend levels in a couple of years. Cost of TA depends on instructional replacement. TA for undergraduate education is easiest.

RA tuition waiver. RSP will provide the tuition for out of state nonresidential tuition. Can we do more? The numbers would be extremely expensive.

What about shift from humanities. SS to earth sciences/physical sciences.? Not sure. Growth at other universities include online and 3+2, 4+1. We have few interdisciplinary programs.

Could we give more credit for faculty involvement in the graduate programs for some departments?

Blended approaches to offset teaching, can we create a teacher/scholar model, postdocs for teaching/research. There are certain barriers, but this could be an effective model. We need to make compelling case for why a postdoc would come to WWU.

RSP involvement with the ICS group, how likely are we getting students to campus? University is doing what they can. Brad claims many moved back to Bellingham. Student involvement in research will be critical this summer.

RSP support for publications. In some fields, conference registration is important for publications. RSP in principle could perhaps. The manuscript budget is typically $60k and is spent at full. The guidelines would have to perhaps change to allow, but it would have to be taken up with the committee.

**Second order of business**. Minutes from 10/22/2020 were approved. One abstention, eight votes to approve.

**Third order of business.** AS student senators will likely be joining us in the future.

**Fourth order of business.** Committee assignments. SEEC, no nominations yet. CUE, two nominations were unanimously approved; Jianying Zhang (Math) and Gerry Prody (Chemistry). PPBC requests to have the CSE nomination for UPRC to submit a statement about equity/social justice focus.

PPBC/UPRC, typically we have a member from PPBC. David Rider will reach out to UPRC chair to see what their preference is, and also if PPBC member is a voting member of UPRC.

**Fifth order of business.** Discussion of CSE Travel policies and professional development document. There are questions about professional membership fees. PPBC will continue to edit and hopefully have a draft for next meeting.