PPBC meeting 04/29/21

In attendance: Amy Anderson (Math), Andrew Boudreaux (Physics), Mark Bussell (Chemistry), Jackie Caplan-Auerbach (CSE, advisory), Brady Foreman (Geology), Qiang Hao (SMATE), Brian Hutchinson (Computer Science), Brad Johnson (CSE, advisory), John Misasi (Engineering), David Rider (AMSEC, Chair), Dietmar Schwarz (Biology)

Absent: Ankur Handa (AS senator, advisory) Olivia Chatters (AS senator, advisory)

1. Minutes from 04/15/21 approved unanimously after striking two sentences from item 5.
2. Replacement of gendered with gender-neutral pronouns in COPEP. Overall feedback from departments was positive. Some voices suggested that pronouns could be removed altogether, but all agreed that the proposed change is better than current policy. Care should be taken to avoid potential ambiguities where referring to parties in singular vs. plural may matter. The following motion was approved unanimously:

Motion: Change the main body of COPEP with from gendered to non-gendered pronouns. Encourage departments to make corresponding changes in departmental addenda.

1. Dean Johnson reminded the council that PPBC has decided against “grandfathering” of old COPEP versions, instead candidates whose review period overlaps with changes in the COPEP should explain why a new COPEP requirement was not addressed. The council encouraged its members to remind their home departments about this policy.

Action items: Revisit and potentially revise COPEP language to clarify and remind candidates and departments about this policy.

In addition, future summary report from the PPBC chair to departments may include reminders of recent changes to the COPEP.

1. Computer Science revision of departmental addendum. CSCI shared document with changes to previous version in response to PPBC. The following motion was unanimously approved:

Motion: Approve latest version of Computer Science departmental addendum with the condition that “EID (Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity)” is changed to “DEI (=Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) to reflect recent changes in CSE.

1. Change to Biology department addendum to account for exceptional circumstances (like the SARS CoV-2 pandemic). The following motion was unanimously approved:

Motion: Approve change to Biology department addendum. Council encourages Biology to consider some suggestions for rewording.

1. Revisit travel policies to consider changes under SARS CoV-2 pandemic. Dean Johnson asked whether policy changes made during the pandemic should become permanent.

Action Item: Council will revisit the travel policy in a future meeting before the end of spring quarter.