

Graduate School Advisory Council

Friday, March 24th, 2023 11 a.m.- Student Union-Shelbyville Room (in-person and ZOOM).

I. Next meeting- April 7th in the Arc/Tuscola Room.

II. Guest Speaker

- **Dr. April Jackson:** Director of Student Disabilities Services!
- Special Education instructor, which then lead to her current position.
- Eastern Illinois University graduate.
- Began as a special education teacher.
- Masters in Curriculum Instruction, working in administration.
- Shares info for not only disabled persons, but marginalized individuals as a whole!

- Placement information: *special education is not a place, it is a service!*
- Disabilities look different for each individual- some require more services (i.e. aid with speaking), while others are high-functioning. This does not mean that they have to be in a restricted environment.

- Higher education for students with disabilities: documentation is always required, but no requirement for an outside diagnosis or accommodation. Some of them are required a disservice either for the student or the professor.

- Dr. Jackson's office: students come to her often for educational services.
 - Focus: less stigmatism for students with disabilities!
 - Emotional Support Animal: some issues arise with documenting how a student's mental health requires a service animal, but it is possible!
 - This is due to extreme restrictive requirements for the individual, but can impact other students (such as students with allergies).
 - ESAs are kept in the home/dorm, *not* in a public space.
 - Roommates need to sign a consent form.
 - Therapists can be held accountable for these animals in case they bite someone.
 - Service animals: *are* in public, but stays away from others due to being highly trained to provide a service for an individual with a disability (such as a seeing-eye dog).

- Services at EIU:

- *Reasonable accommodations:*
 - Do not infringe on academic integrity.
 - No blanket accommodations (i.e. extensions on assignments).
 - Disability services works closely with the library.
 - Housing is its own entity, but can be contacted through disability services.
 - Under ADA 504.
 - COVID not covered yet by ADA!
 - Numbers rose at EIU following the pandemic.
 - Because of this, disability services are closely related to the counseling center, because DS cannot provide aid for many mental health concerns.
- Final notes:
 - Some students may have a disability and not yet be aware of it.
 - TRIO aids disability services under specific circumstances.
 - A disability CANNOT impact your admission chances, international student or not. Admissions also cannot ask you if you have a disability.
 - Debate continues for overidentification and under-identification for K-12 students (typically in minority populations).

III. Executive Reports

- a.** Tea Wheat: Steps to apply for graduation!
- b.** Ruby Oboro-Offerie: No update this week!
- c.** Gabe King: Remember to contact the Graduate School Office if you're a scholarship/grant recipient for the annual Student Expo! Headspace sign-ups are still available!
- d.** Justin Richards:
 - i.** 80's Murder Mystery went very well!
 - ii.** Financial Literacy Event cancelled.
 - iii.** Game night- MLK Union Bridge Lounge on April 5th from 5-7 p.m.
- e.** Jessica Meadows:
 - i.** Five Mental Health Check- Ins.
 - ii.** QR Code to sign up as a transfer mentor!
- f.** Elian Mackey: Follow GSAC's social media accounts!
- g.** Attainea Toulon: BINGO Night- March 27th 7-8 p.m. (location TBA)
- h.** Myra Taylor/ Dr. Timm:
 - i.** The 2023 Graduate Student Exposition is April 11th! More information on the Graduate School webpage on the EIU website!

- ii. Keep the social media accounts active and inclusive for all graduate students!

IV. Department Updates

1. **Economics:** 1st years preparing for internship;
2. **Sustainability:** Events in April- painting event and a retreat. More info to follow.
3. **Aging Studies:** conference Friday, March 31st in Klehm Hall. Many student presenters!
4. **Counseling and Higher Education:** spring comp exams are finished! 1st year contracts for internship turned in today!
5. **Special Education:** special Olympics April 28th, 7:30- 2 on the field! Department is all-online.
6. **College Student Affairs:** student affairs road trip coming soon to an upcoming conference, where five students are presenting! Second years have been applying and accepting jobs! First years have secured contracts for summer internships!
7. **Technology:** trivia night on the 28th! Student Research Day application/ proposals due today!
8. **MBA:** trivia night on the 28th!
9. **Communication Studies:** 1st years are selecting thesis advisors. 2nd years are still finishing and defending theses. Upcoming contract event in April.
10. **Public Health and Nutrition:** Navigating Health Symposium on April 20, 11-4 p.m. in 1418 Klehm.
11. **Clinical Psychology:** new faculty member selected specializing in autism spectrum disorder!
12. **Communication Disorders:** N/A.

V. Upcoming Meetings

Next meeting: April 7th, 2023

Theme: Mythical Creatures (again)