



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

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University Council on Graduate Study Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2017
3:00-5:00 p.m. 817 Cathedral of Learning

Members Attending

Nathan Urban (Provost's Office, Chair), Jonathan Arac (A&S Humanities), Yasavi Cherukuru (GPSG), Vivian Curran (Law), G. Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Maggie Folan (Substitute Pharmacy), Michael Gunzenhauser (Education), Holger Hooch (A&S Assoc Dean), John Horn (Medicine), Jeff Inman (Substitute Katz), Irina Livezeanu (A&S Social Sciences), Tara Meyer, (Arts and Sciences), , Paul Nelson (Graduate School of Public and International Affairs), Kaitlin Powers (GPSG), Jay Rajgopal (Engineering), Caitlin Sniezek (GPSG), Christopher Staten (GPSG President), Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff), Martin Weiss (Computing and Information), and Travis Wisor (University Registrar)

Guests

Katie Pope (Title IX Coordinator), Amanda Brodish (Office of the Provost), Stephanie Hoogendoorn (Office of the Provost)

Council approved the Minutes of the May 16, 2017 Meeting with no revisions.

The main objectives of UCGS per its guidelines are:

The first objective is to place the responsibility for planning and operating graduate programs in the schools and faculties that offer such programs. This arrangement will put the graduate student and his or her program under the immediate supervision of the teaching staff and administrative officers of his or her field of study.

The second objective is to provide a means of establishing and maintaining basic standards and requirements for graduate work throughout the University. It is believed that the advanced degree programs developed and administered by the various schools and faculties, though differing in details, should conform to certain fundamental principles of good practice.

The third objective is to create effective channels of communication within the graduate community and thus to ensure that all segments of the University are represented in the policy making process.

The Title IX Office, led by Katie Pope, is focused on increasing contact with the number of graduate and professional students throughout the University. A new website has been created specifically for the graduate and professional students
<https://www.titleix.pitt.edu/resources/resources-graduate-and-professional-students>.

The AAU sexual climate survey will be administered again in 2019.

Amanda Brodish presented data on graduate student stipends and how Pitt compares to other AAU Institutions. The data were presented by graduate student appointment and by discipline, categorized by CIP code. Details of these data were not distributed due to an agreement with the AAU data exchange.

Stephanie Hoogendoorn gave an overview of the Graduate Student Experience in the Research University (gradSERU) that was administered for the first time in the Spring 2017. The core survey explored the entry, development and exit stages of master's, doctoral and professional students. In addition, there were three modules focusing on: Health and Wellbeing, Professional Development, and International Students. A wildcard module was also included, which focused on Title IX and Diversity. This survey will be administered every other year, opposite of the undergraduate version of the survey. The Office of the Provost is working to summarize the Pitt data, and will receive benchmarked data from the SERU consortium in the coming months.

Council members were asked to sign up for one of two UCGS subcommittees: graduate student affairs or graduate procedures. The student affairs subcommittee will focus on professional development, identifying current practices and areas of improvement. The graduate procedures subcommittee will review graduate student appointment guidelines, beginning with the GSA/TA/TF policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30