

University Council on Graduate Study

May 16, 2017

Minutes

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

817 Cathedral of Learning

Members Attending

Alberta Sbragia (Provost's Office and Arts and Sciences, Chair), Bernard Costello (Dental Medicine), Vivian Curran (Law), Marilyn Hravnak (Substitute for Nursing), G. Kelley Fitzgerald (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences), Ayres Mario Freitas (Arts and Sciences, Physics and Astronomy), Maggie Folan (Substitute Pharmacy), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Lina Insana (Substitute Arts & Sciences), Tara Meyer, (Arts and Sciences), Tony Petrosky (Education), Saleem Khan (Substitute - Medicine), Paul Nelson (Graduate School of Public and International Affairs), Justin Saver (GPSG President), Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff), Mitali Patil (GPSG), and Travis Wisor (University Registrar)

Guests

Roxanna Bendixen (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences), John Lyon (Arts and Sciences), Beth Skidmore (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences), Shannon Wanless (Education)

Proposal to Establish a new major in Occupational Therapy and termination of the Area of Concentration in Occupational Therapy in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences proposed a shift from an area of concentration to a major in occupational therapy. The change will more accurately reflect the level of training students are receiving. The new program will focus on working occupational therapists who are seeking advanced knowledge and skills, and will help practitioners keep pace with the complex changes and advances in our health care system.

Council briefly discussed the proposal. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal and termination be approved. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Proposal to Establish a post-baccalaureate certificate and Area of Concentration in the School Education

The School of Education proposed a new certificate and ARCO that will provide training to address a growing need in the field of infant mental health. The certificate will require 18 credits and will be eligible for Gainful Employment.

Council briefly discussed the proposals. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Proposal to Establish new major in Critical European Culture Studies in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

The Dietrich School proposed a new major. This program will address the concerns about resource inefficiencies that led to the suspension of admissions to the German doctoral program in 2014. The program will be the first of its kind in the United States and will pioneer the field of European Studies to develop within humanistic and cultural studies. Prerequisites to this program will include a Master's degree and established competency in a second European language. The program will admit two students every other year.

Council briefly discussed the proposed program. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the program be approved. All members voted in favor of the motion.

G GRADE Policy

The changes to the G and I grades primarily affect the undergraduate students. Undergraduates are to use a G grade in all cases, which will automatically be changed a NG grade after three terms of no activity. Council voted unanimously to recommend approval of these modifications.

Graduate and Professional Student Government, End of the Year Report

- This year's GPSG orientation was expanded to include breakout sessions on Title IX, mental health, and a panel on access to resources. We also featured a keynote with Vice Provosts Sbragia and Bonner. We closed off the day with a picnic in the Schenley Plaza complete with Roc the Panther and the Pitt cheerleaders
 - Approximately 700 students attended which was 100 more than last year
- Our VP of Finance and Finance Committee
 - 147 travel grants totaling over \$50,000
 - 13 supplemental funding awards totaling \$9,500
 - triple compared to 2015-2016
- VP of Programing and Event Planning Committee organized 10 events including 2 large formals with a total unique student attendance exceeding 1100 students and total attendance exceeding 2100 students.
- VP of Communications worked on TedX Conference themed "Reach" co-hosted with SGB expanded on areas of diversity and inclusivity not covered in years prior
 - Around 400 students, faculty, staff, and the public attended
- We maintained 100% fulfillment of our committee seats across the University over this year
 - more than 35 graduate and professional students from 9 schools at Pitt to serve on 33 university-wide committees
- New Advancements and Collaborations
 - Revamped our website and expanded social media presence
 - Worked with the Provost's Office
 - Expanded representation on the Senate Council
 - Filled 2 seats

- We also added committee representation across University committees
 - Partnered with the Office of Academic Career Development, Alumni Association and Post-Doctoral Association to create the Doctoral Alumni-in-Residence Program
 - Expand opportunities for doctoral students interested in careers outside of academia
 - Worked with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Title IX office to host training for AB
 - Partnered with Pitt Arts and the Office of the Provost to bring “Arts Encounters” to graduate and professional students
 - Worked with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to expand the staff and faculty certificate program to graduate and professional students
 - Worked with the Student Health Service and SGB to co-author a grant that if awarded would fund exploration of Pitt becoming a tobacco or smoke-free campus.
 - Worked with the Pitt Alumni Association and Office of Community and Governmental Relations to organize a Graduate and Professional Student Research Showcase at Pitt Day in Harrisburg
 - Overall 15 students from 10 schools had the opportunity to share their work with PA legislators and over 50 graduate and professional students attended this year’s Pitt Day
 - Partnered with Pitt Program Council to expand event availability to graduate and professional students
 - Pitt GPSG joined SAGE
 - A coalition of public AAU graduate and professional student gov
- Survey
 - 1300 responses which is nearly double last years’ number
 - The survey indicated an unfulfilled desire of the student body to feel connected to Pitt outside of their Department or School as well as want for programming offered outside their Department or School. The survey also indicated gaps in communication between the GPSG and the student body with many students not receiving updates from their Assembly Board representatives.
 - Some recommendations the GPSG and the administration can work together to achieve in the coming years. We should explore the desire of the students to feel a stronger connection to Pitt, bolster communication and collaboration between the Division of Student Affairs and individual school student affairs administrators, and work to improve communication between GPSG and the student body.
- View our full annual report
 - GPSG -> Documents -> Annual Reports -> 2016-2017
 - <http://gpsg.pitt.edu/documents/annual-reports/>
 - Will be included in the minutes

Announcements:

Health Insurance - The University-wide annual health insurance meeting for administrators is Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Over the past several years, it seems the eBenefits system has been working well. An update on the 17-18 rates will be provided at the May 16 meeting.

Council approved the Minutes of the February 21, 2017 Meeting with no revisions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.