



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

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University Council on Graduate Study Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Zoom

Members Attending:

Amanda Godley (Chair), Pernille Roege (Arts & Sciences), Rosemary Capo (Arts & Sciences), Morgan Pierce (Arts & Sciences), Kevin Crowley (Education), Michael Gunzenhauser (Education), Jenay Willis (Education), Bob Parker (Engineering), Bryan Brown (Engineering), Zeke Villarreal (Engineering), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Anthony Winfield (Katz), Prashant Krishnamurthy (Computing & Information), Julia Reese (Computing & Information), Erica Owen Palmer (GSPIA), Claire Guth (GSPIA), Ada Youk (Public Health), Hele Petracchi (Social Work), Kathryn Luk (Social Work), Nadine Robert (Dental Medicine), Bharath Chandrasekaran (SHRS), Michael Dickey (SHRS), G. Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Madelyn Czekalski (SHRS), John Horn (Medicine), Wendy Mars (Medicine), Robin Lee (Medicine), Rithika Behera (Medicine), Elizabeth Schlenk (Nursing), Kerry Empey (Pharmacy), Madeline Kreider (Pharmacy), Vivian Curran (Law), Michelle Schein (Senate Education Policy Committee), Jonathan Helm (University Registrar's Office), and Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff)

Substitutes: Dobrawa Napierala (Dental Medicine Sub – Christine Wankiiri-Hale)

Guests: Jennifer Phillips (University Registrar's Office), Michael Schneider (SHRS), Denise Chisolm (SHRS), Haider Hamoudi (Law), Chuck Kotuby (Law), Ron Brand (Law), and Alan Meisel (Law)

Academic Planning Proposals

Proposal to terminate the Master of Occupational Therapy degree type within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences proposed to terminate the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree type. The field, both regionally and nationally, is transitioning to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy, which was approved at Pitt in 2016. All students enrolled in the MOT graduated in June 2021.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost and Chancellor that the proposal be approved. SHRS representatives, Bharath Chandrasekaran, Michael Dickey, G. Kelley Fitzgerald, Madelyn Czekalski, and Michelle Schein were

recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted unanimously in favor of recommending approval.

Proposal to establish 5 micro-credentials within the School of Law: 1) Cyber Law & IT, 2) Energy and Environmental Law, 3) Human Rights Law, 4) Intellectual Property Law, and 5) Tax Law

The School of Law proposed to establish five new micro-credentials: 1) Cyber Law & IT, 2) Energy and Environmental Law, 3) Human Rights Law, 4) Intellectual Property Law, and 5) Tax Law. Each micro-credential will require 9 credits and will be offered in-person. Each of the 5 proposed micro-credentials have shown the most interest among prospective students.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Law representative, Vivian Curran, was recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted unanimously in favor.

Proposal to establish a graduate online certificate in Corporate Compliance within School of Law

The School of Law proposed to establish a new graduate online certificate in Corporate Compliance. Market research done with the help of the University Center for Teaching & Learning shows that Corporate Compliance is a rapidly growing field in the US federal government as well as Corporations across the country. The program will offer 15-credits asynchronous online to be taken sequentially over the course of one year.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Law representative, Vivian Curran, was recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted unanimously in favor.

Policy Revisions

Graduate Student Parental Accommodation

The graduate student parental accommodation guidelines have not been updated since they were originally approved in 2010. Changes proposed include: 1) clarifying the language to include professional students in addition to graduate students wherever possible, 2) modified language to use more inclusive pronouns, and clarifying some of the guidelines specifically for graduate students with academic appointments.

Council discussed the proposed changes and offered additional feedback, including the need to benchmark related guidelines at peer institutions. A revised version of the guidelines will be discussed at a future meeting.

No vote was taken at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.