



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

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University Council on Graduate Study Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Zoom

Members Attending:

Amanda Godley (Chair), Morgan Pierce (Arts & Sciences), Kevin Crowley (Education), Michael Gunzenhauser (Education), Jenay Willis (Education), Bryan Brown (Engineering), Zeke Villarreal (Engineering), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Sara Moeller (Katz), Anthony Winfield (Katz), Prashant Krishnamurthy (Computing & Information), Julia Reese (Computing & Information), Erica Owen Palmer (GSPIA), Ada Youk (Public Health), Helen Petracchi (Social Work), Kathryn Luk (Social Work), Nadine Robert (Dental Medicine), Christine Wankiiri-Hale (Dental Medicine), Bharath Chandrasekaran (SHRS), Michael Dickey (SHRS), G. Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Madelyn Czekalski (SHRS), John Horn (Medicine), Wendy Mars (Medicine), Robin Lee (Medicine), Elizabeth Schlenk (Nursing), Xiaojun Shi (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)

Guests: Jennifer Phillips (University Registrar's Office)

The minutes from the October 2021 meeting were approved.

Academic Planning Proposals

Proposal to reorganize the academic structure within the Master's degree programs in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

- **Terminate five existing majors: 1. Energy and Environment 2. Governance and International Public Management 3. Human Security 4. Nongovernmental Organizations and Civil Society 5. Social Policy and 6. Urban Affairs and Planning leading to the Master of International Development (MID) degree.**
- **Establish a new major in International Development leading to Master of International Development degree AND establish 5 new ARCOs in: 1. Energy and Environment 2. Governance and International Public Management 3. Human Security 4. Nongovernmental Organizations and Civil Society 5. Social Policy and 6. Urban Affairs and Planning**
- **Terminate three existing majors: 1. Human security 2. Security and Intelligence Studies and 3. International Political Economy leading to the Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA) degree**

- **Establish a new major in Public and International Affairs leading to Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA) degree AND ESTABLISH 3 new ARCOs in: 1. Human security 2. Security and Intelligence Studies and 3. International Political Economy)**
- **Terminate six existing majors: 1. Energy and Environment 2. Governance and International Public Management 3. Policy Research & Analysis 4. Public & nonprofit Management 5. Social Policy and 6. Urban Affairs & Planning leading to the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree**
- **GSPIA - Establish a new major in Public Administration leading to Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree AND ESTABLISH 6 new ARCOs in: 1. Energy and Environment 2. Governance and International Public Management 3. Policy Research & Analysis 4. Public & nonprofit Management 5. Social Policy and 6. Urban Affairs & Planning**

The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs proposed a reorganization among its master's programs. The change will transition current majors to areas of concentration within newly established majors. The School believes that this change will better reflect the master's programs and will align them with peer institutions. Discussion among council was supportive, but a suggestion was made to check if/what impact the reorg will have on currently established joint programs. This suggestion should not prevent the reorg from being approved.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. GSPIA representative Erica Owen Palmer was recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted unanimously in favor of recommending approval.

Policy Revisions

Graduate Student Researcher Policy

The overarching goal of updating the policy is to better align the GSR policy with that of the GSA/TA/TF policy and include clarification in needed areas. Significant changes include gender inclusive pronouns, minimum number of break days for GSRs and clearer expectations about research duties during University holidays, adding a "serious illness or incapacitation" statement, removal of the requirement for summertime enrollment on 8 or 12-month appointments, and clearer evaluation and appeal processes.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval as provided in the meeting material with comments. 26 members voted to approve, 0 against and 1 abstention.

Graduate Student Assistant/Teaching Assistant/Teaching Fellow Policy

The overarching goal of updating the policy is to better align the GSA/TA/TF policy with that of the GSR policy and include clarification in needed areas. Significant changes include gender inclusive pronouns, minimum number of break days for GSRs and clearer

expectations about research duties during University holidays, adding a “serious illness or incapacitation” statement, removal of the requirement for summertime enrollment on 8 or 12-month appointments, and clearer evaluation and appeal processes.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval as provided in the meeting material with comments. 26 members voted to approve, 0 against and 1 abstention.

Graduate Student Parental Accommodation

The graduate student parental accommodation guidelines have not been updated since they were originally approved in 2010. They were reviewed initially by Council at the October 2021 and updates were made based on that discussion. Updates proposed include: 1) change “birth mother” to “birth parent,” 2) extend to part-time students, 3) for cases in which both parents are Pitt students, allow sequential accommodation periods, 4) add “we encourage faculty to continue to be accommodating once student returns,” and 5) increase the length of leave from 6 weeks to 8 weeks for all parents (birth parent, other parent, adoptive parents).

A motion was made and seconded to recommend the revisions to the accommodation policy as presented by Vice Provost Godley. 25 members voted to approve, 0 against and 2 abstentions

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.