



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

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TO: University Council on Graduate Study
FROM: Alberta Sbragia
DATE: November 10, 2016
SUBJECT: **Next Meeting of Council: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in 817 Cathedral of Learning**

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please send a substitute in your place and notify Jennifer Walker at jlwst88@pitt.edu.

AGENDA

- i. Welcome and Approval of the September 2016 Minutes**
- ii. The Year of Diversity**
Dr. Waverly Duck, Co-chair of The of Year of Diversity Committee
- iii. Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy Review (*attached*)**
Attached proposed revisions to our university-wide policy 09-04-02 on Student Level and Academic Progress. Pitt is in compliance with federal regulations for the renewal of all federal student loans provided to graduate and undergraduate students. However, the current version of the policy that describes this process, [policy 09-04-02](#), needs to be updated to reflect this process. Note that the current version of our process is available online on the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (OFA) site at <https://oafa.pitt.edu/financialaid/satisfactory-academic-progress/>. Note that the eligibility guidelines in this policy are also used for most aid programs.

The revised policy has three proposed content changes:
 1. The minimum GPA for graduate students is increased from 2.0 to 3.0, to match the graduation requirement for our graduate programs (except Law which is noted in the revisions).
 2. For research and professional practice doctoral students, the statute of limitations will be used to determine the maximum timeframe allowed instead of the total credits of the program.
 3. The definitions of the Student Level will be removed from the policy and placed in a separate guideline. The definitions will be reviewed and may be changed to reflect a four-year graduation rate. Additionally, the policy is currently named “Student Level and Satisfactory Academic Progress” and will be renamed as Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress.

The remaining revisions provide additional information about the current procedure in order to better communicate the policy and its implementation, especially the appeal process.

OFAFA manages this process and has drafted the attached revision, with input from the Office of the Provost as well other financial aid offices. We ask that you review the proposed revisions to the policy. Please consult with the financial aid offices in your units as available. As part of this review, we will seek the input of the Financial Aid Offices.

Also a working draft of the appeal form used by OFAFA is attached. Your comments about the appeal process are also appreciated. Once the policy revisions are approved, OFAFA will finalize the appeal form.

***iv.* Announcements**

1. The annual Assessment Conference will be held on Friday, January 27, 2017 at the University Club from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm. Keynote speaker will be Helen Stubbs, Senior Consultant from Gallup. Registration will be open in December.

AMS/jlw