University Council on Graduate Study
Report on 2018-2019 Activities

As stated in its bylaws, the University Council on Graduate Study is to communicate its decisions to the faculty, students, and administrative officers of the University. If you have comments on the activities as reported here or suggestions for agenda items, please contact Vice Provost Nathan Urban at vpurban@pitt.edu.

Reports Given to Council

Title IX – September 18, 2018
Katie Pope
Title IX Coordinator

Curriculog – September 18, 2018
Ryan Streno
University Registrar's Office

GRE Scores in Graduate Admissions – October 23, 2018
Dr. Ellen Ansell
Equity, Inclusion, Anti-Discrimination Advocacy Committee (EIADAC)
Dr. John Horn
School of Medicine

Pitt Commons
Julia Spears
Office of the Provost

Online Learning at Pitt – February 19, 2019
Bill Valenta
Office of the Provost
Cynthia Golden
University Center for Teaching and Learning

Developing a Student Success Maker - March 19, 2019
Jennifer Walker
Office of the Provost

Care and Resource Support – May 21, 2019
Mary Bigante
Division of Student Affairs
Jennifer Seng
Office of University Counsel

Review of Guidelines and Policy

Changes to Regulations Governing Graduate Study – September 18, 2018
Presenter: Nathan Urban, Office of the Provost
Council considered a suggestion to remove the requirement that a graduate student must be registered in the term of graduation. A motion was made and supported to recommend removal of this requirement to the Provost for final approval.
March 19, 2019 – An update to this guideline change was proposed. This revision clarified that international students must maintain enrollment per the requirements of their visa.

Changes to Regulations Governing Graduate Study – October 23, 2018
Presenter: Nathan Urban, Office of the Provost
Council reviewed and recommended substantial modifications to the graduate certificate section of Regulations. Modifications include decreasing the number of required credits to greater than 9 and eliminating the types of graduate certificates.

Changes to Regulations Governing Graduate Study – November 20, 2018
Presenter: Nathan Urban, Office of the Provost
Council considered a proposal and recommended approval to modify the Other Professional Doctoral Degrees section within Regulations. The modification will eliminate the minimum length of time (9semesters of full-time student) required and instead require a minimum of 72 credits.

Changes to Regulations Governing Graduate Study – December 4, 2018
Presenter: Nathan Urban, Office of the Provost
Council reviewed and recommended approval to create guidelines for Graduate Micro-Credentials. Micro-credentials may be comprised of between four and nine credits and may include requirements for non-course education activities such as workshops, projects or other milestones. Micro-credentials can be offered to currently enrolled students or students enrolled as non-degree seeking.

Review of Proposals

Proposal to establish an online certificate in Human Resource Law in the School of Law.
The School of Law proposed to establish a new online 15-credit certificate in Human Resource Law. Pitt will be among the first law schools to offer this type of certificate and will cover human resource topics from recruitment through voluntary/involuntary termination.

Proposal to establish several BS/MS programs in the Swanson School of Engineering.
The Swanson School of Engineering plans to create accelerated BS/MS programs in each of its six departments. This structure is very common in engineering schools across the nation, and Pitt is receiving an increasing amount of inquiries to offer such programs. In addition, the School is hopeful that the BS/MS will also serve as a feeder into Pitt Engineering PhD programs.

Proposal to establish a new major in Business Administration with Business Analytics leading to the MBA degree in the Katz Graduate School of Business.
The Katz Graduate School of Business proposed to establish a new major within the MBA degree that will combine the exact requirements of the Business Administration major with the existing Business Analytics certificate. Combining these two areas will be attractive to students interested in specializing in business analytics. The new major will also be granted a STEM CIP code, which will also be attractive to international students.

Proposal to establish a new major in Management leading to the Master of Science degree in the Katz Graduate School of Business.
The Katz Graduate School of Business proposed to establish a new major in Management leading to the Master of Science degree. The new program will fill a gap in the business world and will target students immediately following their undergraduate degree or a working professional who is looking to make a drastic change in careers. The program is different from the MBA as the MBA targets the experienced worker in the business realm. The new MS in Management curriculum is designed to provide graduates the opportunity to receive a MS degree, and after gaining work experience, return to complete the MBA expeditiously.

Proposal to establish a new certificate in Pharmacy Business Administration in the School of Pharmacy.
The School of Pharmacy proposed to establish a new certificate in Pharmacy Business Administration. The new certificate will introduce students with a predominantly business background to the pharmacy perspective.

Proposal to establish a new major in Computational Biomedicine and Biotechnology leading to the Master of Science degree in the School of Medicine.
The School of Medicine proposed to establish a new major in Computational Biomedicine and Biotechnology leading to the Master of Science degree. The new program will fill a gap in industry. The program expects to attract three types of students: 1) students with a life sciences background looking to gain knowledge about computational methods, 2) students with a quantitative background to use in the biological field, and 3) working professionals who are looking to change careers.

Proposal to establish a new certificate in Cybersecurity, Policy & Law in the School of Computing and Information and Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and to establish a minor in Cybersecurity, Policy & Law in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.
The School of Computing and Information and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs proposed to establish a new certificate in Cybersecurity, Policy & Law. In addition, the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs proposed a new minor in Cybersecurity, Policy & Law. The new certificate and minor will satisfy a high demand within the field, and having public policy, computing and law in one University gives Pitt an advantage for a successful program.

Proposal to establish a new major in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages leading to the Master of Arts degree in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.
The School of Arts and Sciences proposed to establish a new major in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) leading to the Master of Arts degree. The new program will focus on principles and practice of teaching English to students who are not proficient in English or who do not speak, read or write English, and that may prepare individuals to function as teachers and administrators in such programs. The new program will not replace the existing 2-year opportunity to pursue a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics with the TESOL graduate certificate.

Proposal to establish a new major in Management and Business Analytics leading to the Master of Science degree in the Katz Graduate School of Business.
The Katz Graduate School of Business proposed to establish a new major in Management and Business Analytics leading to the Master of Science degree. The new program prepare students to with little work experience to obtain generalize business education as well as business analytics skills.

Proposal to establish a new degree type, the Master of Pharmacy Business Administration in the School of Pharmacy. The existing major in Pharmacy Business Administration will now lead to new degree.
The School of Pharmacy proposed to establish a new degree type, a Master of Pharmacy Business Administration. The new degree type will more accurately represent the program content and design to reflect equal parts of a graduate business program and a specifically targeted pharmacy program.

Proposal to establish a new School Nurse certificate in the School of Nursing.
The School of Nursing proposed to establish a new online, 15-credit, graduate School Nurse certificate. The new certificate is designed for students looking to become a school nurse who require advanced skills such as practicing autonomy, supervising others, and delegating care in a community rather than a hospital setting.

Proposal to establish a new major in Genome Bioinformatics leading to the Master of Science degree and to terminate the existing major in Biostatistics leading to the Master of Public Health in the Graduate School of Public Health.
The Graduate School of Public Health proposed to establish a new major in Genome Bioinformatics leading to the Master of Science degree. The new major is aimed to train computational analysts to be experts at manipulating, annotating, and interpreting human genome data and will seek jobs primarily outside of academia.

The request to terminate the existing major in Biostatistics leading to the Master of Public Health (MPH) was made for two reasons. First, this major has historically had very low enrollment and currently has zero students registered. Second, the specialized accreditors no longer require Biostatistics to be a major offered in the MPH degree. No changes to the Biostatistics major leading to the Master of Science degree will be made at this time.

Proposal to establish a new major in Quantitative Economics leading to the Master of Science degree in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.
The Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences proposed to establish a new major in Quantitative Economics leading to the Master of Science degree. The new major will inform decision making with sophisticated data analysis and train students to communicate the analysis and the implications for decisions.

Proposal to establish a new major in Health Informatics leading to the Master of Science degree and four new graduate certificates: 1) Health Data Analytics, 2) Health Information Cybersecurity, 3) Revenue Cycle Management and 4) Leadership and Health Informatics and to terminate two ARCOs.
The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences proposed to establish a new major in Health Informatics to the Master of Science degree and four graduate certificates as listed above. The new programs will be offered both on-campus and on-line and will address the changing educational needs of health informatics professionals by providing advanced knowledge and skills to improve quality of healthcare, make healthcare available to remote and underserved populations, and reduce the cost of healthcare.

In addition, the School proposed to terminate the Healthcare Supervision and Management as well as the Health Information Systems areas of concentration within the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences major leading to the Master of Science degree. Students currently enrolled in the ARCOs will be given the option to transfer to the new major or maintain their current enrollment.

Proposal to establish a new online graduate certificate in Science, Technology Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) in the School of Education.
The School of Education proposed to establish a new graduate certificate in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). The new certificate will teach educators how to design learning experiences that incorporate math, science art and engineering, and show students how to apply multiple methods to solve authentic programs. Potentially interested parties outside of teachers include, museum educators or those working in the field of education technology.

Proposal to establish a new area of concentration in Health and Wellness Management within the existing Health and Physical Activity major leading to the Master of Science degree within the School of Education
The School of Education proposed to establish a new area of concentration (ARCO) with the Health and Physical Activity major leading to the Master of Science degree. The new ARCO will provide managerial skills to student who are already working in the health and physical activity (HPA) space. Many courses in the curriculum will be taught by faculty in the Katz Graduate School of Business. Admissions requirements will include a background in HPA to avoid attracting students who are interesting in an MBA degree.

Proposal to establish a new major and minor in Social Policy leading to the Master of Public Administration and Master of International Development degrees in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs proposed to establish a new major in Social Policy leading to the Master of Public Administration and Master of International Development degrees. In addition, GSPIA proposed to create a new minor in Social Policy, which will be available to students enrolled in other graduate schools at Pitt. The new programs will develop the skills to analyze social needs and the public policies and administrative processes to help alleviate them in the United States and around the world.

Proposal to establish a new graduate certificate in Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. Proposal to establish an area of concentration in Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner within the existing Nurse Practitioner major leading to the DNP degree within the School of Nursing

The School of Nursing proposed to establish a new graduate certificate in Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and to establish an area of concentration in Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner within the existing Nurse Practitioner major leading to the DNP degree. The new programs will produce graduates who are ready to provide quality health care to acutely, critically, and chronically ill children and their families. If Pennsylvania moves to adopt the Nursing Consensus Model, those holding a DNP degree and working in this area of specialization will be required to go back for the credential. Therefore, it is expected that demand for these programs will increase in the future.

Proposal to rename the Master of Science in Electrical Engineering degree type to the Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering and to rename the major leading to the PhD degree in the same way

The Swanson School of Engineering proposed to rename the Master of Science in Electrical Engineering degree type to the Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering and to rename the major leading to the PhD degree in the same way. All current students will be moved to the new programs.

Documents and Websites Available to the University Community

Wellness Resources for Graduate and Professional Students, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh.

Graduate Studies – Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh
https://www.provost.pitt.edu/students/graduate-studies

Graduate and Professional Admissions, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh.
https://www.pitt.edu/admissions/graduate-professional

Graduate and Professional Academics, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh.
http://www.gradstudents.pitt.edu/

2018-2019 UCGS Members

Holger Hoock, Arts and Sciences, Associate Dean
Satish Iyengar, Arts and Sciences Natural Sciences, Statistics
Irina Livezeanu, Arts and Sciences, Social Sciences, History
Tara Meyer, Arts and Sciences, At-Large, Assistant Dean
Christine Wankiiri-Hale, School of Dental Medicine
Michael Gunzenhauser, School of Education
Lindsay Matsumura, School of Education
Jay Rajgopal, School of Engineering
Qing Ming Wang, School of Engineering
Dennis Galletta, Katz Graduate School of Business
G. Kelley Fitzgerald, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Milos Hauskrecht, School of Computing and Information
Vivian Curran, School of Law
John Horn, School of Medicine
Sandra Engberg, School of Nursing
Sam Poloyac, School of Pharmacy
Jessica Burke, Graduate School of Public Health
Paul Nelson, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Jeff Shook, School of Social Work
Kenneth Jordan, Interdisciplinary Programs
Rachel Coombs, Graduate and Professional Student Government, President, Biological Sciences
Jennifer Enriquez, Graduate and Professional Student Government, Social Work & GSPH
Kaitlin Powers, Graduate and Professional Student Government, GSPH
Philips Harding, Graduate and Professional Student Government, BioEngineering
Oliver Beale, Graduate and Professional Student Government, Medicine
Suraj Subramanian, Graduate and Professional Student Government, Computing and Information
Nathan Urban, Office of the Provost, Chairperson, Neurobiology
Jennifer Walker, Office of the Provost, Staff
Travis Wisor, Office of the Registrar, Observer (fall)
Patti Mathay, Office of the Registrar, Observer (spring)