<div align="center">**University Council on Graduate Study**
Report on 2022-2023 Activities</div>

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 Amanda Godley at vpgodley@pitt.edu.

Reports Given to Council

UCGS Goals for 2022-2023 – September 29. 2022
Vice Provost Godley reviewed the goals for the upcoming year. Every UCGS member will be asked to serve on a committee to review and make recommendations for updating academic policies/regulations/guidance related to graduate studies.

Voluntary Advance Option – September 29, 2022
Vice Provost Godley discussed the Voluntary Advance Option from the Office of the Provost which offers eligible graduate students the option to receive a voluntary fall stipend advance, payable on September 7, 2022. In September 2022, 103 students and 47 faculty received a voluntary payroll advance. A further discussion included how much it would benefit graduate students to receive bi-weekly stipends instead of monthly.

Graduate Enrollment Data and Trends – September 29, 2022
Vice Provost Godley provided an overview of national and University of Pittsburgh graduate data and trends that included enrollment for professional and master's degree programs, online learning, international students, diversity, testing and rankings.

Data Reports – March 14, 2023
Vice Provost Godley discussed three data reports on earned doctorates, enrollment and diversity and Pitt undergraduates' plans for graduate school.

1. **ETS survey of Pitt undergraduates' plans for graduate school**
In the fall 2022, 732 Pitt undergraduates were surveyed. 53% said that they are interested in pursuing a master's degree and 31% said they are interested in doctoral studies. The majority had great confidence in their ability to succeed in graduate school. The top motivating factors for them to pursue a graduate degree are to earn more money, learn more in a field, and to have a greater impact on their community. They are inhibited from applying to graduate school because of cost and needing a break from school. To make graduate school a more viable option they would like resources around a counselor guiding them through the process, information about the professional advantages of a graduate degree, and managing debt from their education experience.

2. **NSF Survey of Earned Doctorates**
The Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), sponsored by the NSF, is an annual census conducted since 1957 of all individuals receiving a research doctorate from an accredited U.S. institution in

a given academic year. SED collects information on the doctoral recipient's educational history, demographic characteristics, and postgraduation plans. Results are used to assess characteristics of the doctoral population and trends in doctoral education and degrees. Pitt response rate was 100%; 92% at other institutions.

3. **AAU enrollment and diversity data**

From 2010 to 2020 AAU public peers have increased graduate enrollment by 16% and Pitt has decreased by 13%. From 2011 to 2021, AAU peers have increased 25% and we have decreased by 9.60%. The demographics of underrepresented minority students who enrolled in 2021 are 17% (Latinx 6.5%, 6.7% Black, two or more races 3.6%) and all AAU schools is 22.5% (Latinx 11.1%, 6.9% Black, two or more races 4.1%).

Review of Guidelines and Policy

UCGS Policy AC 70 – September 29, 2022

Vice Provost Godley highlighted that UCGS members are an advisory committee to the Provost to ensure that our graduate and professional programs are high quality and adhere to academic regulations at Pitt. UCGS members should consider how academic programs will attract students and provide value and are asked to review the budget and assessment matrix when reviewing academic program proposals.

Review of Proposals

September 29, 2022

Proposal to establish a Micro-Credential in the School of Medicine, Biomedical Master's Program (BMP) in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Biomedical Science. The micro-credential would formalize the effort of the BMP (and more generally the School of Medicine) to foster a diverse and inclusive environment within the University of Pittsburgh and to teach their trainees how best to act as advocates and allies throughout their careers. The micro-credential will further enhance BMP diversity recruitment, student participation in the elective elements and will provide distinction to those students committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout their careers. The committee discussed the proposal and agreed that more information was needed about the DEI focus of the curriculum and the alignment of the program with current best practices in DEI education before UCGS could vote on whether to recommend the proposal for Provost's approval.

Proposal to establish a Joint Degree between the Dietrich Arts & Sciences, Master of Science in Quantitative Economics and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Master's in Public Administration. The Joint Degree will enable students seeking training in both policy and data analytics, who want to enter mid-career positions as policy/data analysts in both the public and private sector, to achieve this goal through a streamlined 2.5-year joint MQE-MPA degree program. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the

Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted unanimously in favor of recommending approval to the Provost.

October 12, 2022

Proposal to establish a PhD major in Africana Studies in the Department of Africana Studies, the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Africana Studies proposed to establish a new PhD major in Africana Studies. This new major will provide an advanced graduate degree that places the experiences, perspectives, agency, and initiative of people of African descent at the center of its focus and provides intellectual frameworks for equipping graduates to produce new scholarship and understandings about those experiences. Moreover, there is strong demand across higher education for scholars and teachers of Black experiences and with the expertise to place those experiences in historical and social context. The major aligns well with the Plan for Pitt, as it will contribute to an inclusive and equitable campus environment that welcomes, values, and embraces diverse perspectives of every member of our community, and creates more preeminent teaching, learning, scholarship, and research experiences. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted unanimously in favor of recommending approval to the Provost.

December 13, 2022

Proposal to establish a major in Medical Science for the Master of Science degree in the School of Medicine

The School of Medicine proposed to establish a Master of Science in Medical Science through the School of Medicine. The degree will recognize the accomplishments of students who complete the first two years of the MD program but are unable to complete the MD degree for a variety of reasons. This degree will allow them to apply for and be offered more competitive positions with higher salaries, which will allow them to pay off their educational loans more easily. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (29 in favor and 1 abstention).

Proposal to modify the K-12 Principal Graduate Certificate in the School of Education
The School of Education proposed to modify the K-12 Principal graduate certificate to increase accessibility by converting the program to online learning with a high level of peer-to-peer interaction, innovative technologies, and asynchronous instruction. These changes include reducing credit hours from 24 credit hours to 18 credits hours. These changes will make the certificate more marketable and attractive to students, in addition to strengthening their partnerships with existing groups both in the University and in the community. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (27 in favor and 3 abstentions).

Proposal to establish a Critical Instructional Design and Technology Graduate Certificate in the School of Education
The School of Education proposed to establish a graduate certificate in Critical Instructional Design and Technology to create learning opportunities that support critical inquiry around the design and development of pedagogical content for different course delivery formats (online, hybrid, or face-to-face). The certificate will provide opportunities for the course facilitators and students to explore, examine, and discuss historical, contemporary, and emerging instructional design theories and models. Through this program, students will explore, discuss, and apply applications of critical pedagogy to instructional design practices. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (27 in favor and 3 abstentions).

March 14, 2022

Proposal to establish a Certificate in Clinical Translational Sciences for Graduate Students in the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy
This certificate program will provide an opportunity to clinical scientists to learn how to translate work from bench to bedside and vice versa. The Certificate program is open to both PhD and MS students and is expected to encourage participation by a variety of students within the health sciences, adding to the diversity and sharing of ideas. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (26 in favor and 4 abstentions).

Proposal to establish a Micro-Credential, Certificate, and a Master of Science in Research Administration in the Katz Graduate School of Business

The new programs will support an overall school strategy to offer stackable and flexible credentials to those with an undergraduate degree who desire to gain foundational business and research administration skills. Graduates of the proposed programs would be prepared to fulfill the increasing demand for research administrators in academic, corporate, and non-profit contexts. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost: Micro-Credential (29 in favor and 1 abstention); Certificate (26 in favor, 1 against, and 3 abstentions); Major (26 in favor, 1 against, 2 abstentions)

Proposal to establish a Micro-Credential in Sustainable Business in the Katz Graduate School of Business
The micro-credential will replace the retiring Pitt Business Sustainability Certificate as a component. The proposed changes and additions are consistent with an overall school strategy to offer stackable and flexible credentials to both non-degree and degree-seeking graduate students interested in gaining business knowledge and skills. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (29 in favor and 1 abstention).

April 11, 2023

Proposal to modify the MD curriculum in the School of Medicine
The modifications to the MD curriculum will enhance graduate/professional school offerings; create more preeminent teaching/learning experiences; broader academic opportunities, especially around civic engagement; collaborate better with communities; and enrich the student experience with transformative opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive. These changes will make the School of Medicine more attractive to applicants, better prepare students for careers in medicine, and serve as a national curriculum model, further advancing the university's status as a leader in medical education. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (27 in favor and 3 abstentions).

Proposal to establish an online Professional Master's in Data Science in the School of Computing & Information
The proposed program builds upon strengths that span the school's three departments, and emphasizes workforce readiness, with a focus on real-world, data-oriented problem solving and portfolio-building projects throughout. To reach a broad audience, the proposed program will be offered via an online, self-paced, asynchronous modality to increase access to and completion of the degree by working professionals. Additionally, this degree builds upon the School's Applied Data-Driven Methods graduate certificate, which has no STEM pre-requisites for admission nor assumption of programming experience to target a diverse population of adult learners from many disciplinary backgrounds. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (30 in favor and 1 abstentions).

Proposal to establish a Master of Arts major in Africana Studies in the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences
The proposal provides an option to students admitted to the PhD program in Africana Studies who do not already have an MA in Africana Studies to obtain the MA degree enroute to a PhD or the flexibility to receive a degree if they will not be advancing beyond their first two years of the PhD program before completing the dissertation requirement. Students will be required to have successfully completed 30-credit hours and a master's comprehensive research paper. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (28 in favor and 1 abstentions).

Proposal to modify the Master of Education major in Early Childhood and Special Education in the School of Education
The proposal will align the sequence of classes most effectively with the new Undergraduate Teacher Preparation program and the revised Graduate one-year programs. The revised sequence of classes and field experiences allows for a more streamlined learning experience for students in the field. These proposed changes will make the School of Education better equipped to meet students' academic needs as well as attract new students with more current programs. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (27 in favor).

May 9, 2023

Proposal to establish two certificates in Africana Studies and Advanced Africana Studies Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences

The certificates will provide opportunities for Africana Studies PhD students and graduate students at Pitt who are external to the Department of Africana Studies to acquire advanced knowledge and competencies that will allow them to recognize and explore the significance of placing the experiences, perspectives, agency, and initiatives of people of African descent at the center of focus. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost Africana Studies Certificate (25 in favor); Advanced Africana Studies (25 in favor).

Proposal to establish a certificate in Bioethics Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences

The certificate will draw two types of students: current graduate and health professional students, as well as working healthcare and healthcare-adjacent professionals. By providing access to the Bioethics core curriculum, certificate students will gain deeper knowledge of normative, ethical, and social dimensions of health, healthcare, and biomedical sciences that they can apply in their research or as practitioners. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (26 in favor).

Proposal to establish a certificate in Management Consulting in the Katz Graduate School of Business

The certificate is consistent with an overall school strategy to offer stackable and flexible credentials to graduate students interested in gaining business knowledge and skills. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (25 in favor).

Proposal to modify the LL.M. degree in the School of Law

The hybrid LL.M. degree will allow foreign lawyers to complete the degree by reducing the number of semesters in residence from two to one and by substituting one of the existing online law certificates for the other semester's work. This change will reduce barriers for foreign lawyers to apply to and complete the LL.M. Degree. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (25 in favor).

Proposal to establish a new PhD major, Cancer Biology and Oncology in the School of Medicine

The Cancer Biology and Oncology major is designed to train the next generation of cancer researchers both in basic and translational sciences. Cancer research has evolved rapidly during recent years resulting in revolutionary treatments and diagnostics. The curriculum will reflect the rapid change in the landscape of cancer science and care, with a focus on increasing the number of female and underrepresented trainees. This program will train new graduate students, serve the needs of our faculty and further promote the highly collaborative academic research environment that is a hallmark of our school and university. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (22 in favor and 1 abstain).

Proposal to establish a new MSW major, PT OL MSW, in School of Social Work
The online, part-time MSW major meets the increasing demand for social workers with graduate degrees in social work. This need extends across the PA commonwealth and nation, with particular need in low-resource communities in both rural and urban areas. The major will accommodate working adult learners and people whose financial and personal circumstances do not allow them to relocate to Pittsburgh to obtain a graduate degree. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (23 in favor).

Proposal to establish Circular Economy in the Swanson School of Engineering
This certificate, administered by the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, will meet the global multiple industry sector needs for people trained in circular economy solutions and circular business principles. This certificate aims to address this gap and expand Pitt's educational offerings in the sustainability arena. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (22 in favor).

Subcommittees

Advanced Standing Credits (with PACUP) Liaison: Paula Jankowski; Chair: Deb Good; Members: Vivian Curran, Jung-Kun Lee, Jonathan Helm, Michelle Schein, Ali Schultz, Xander Silva, Christine Wankiiri-Hale
This committee will consider transfer credit maximums and other issues related to transfer credits including block transfers.

Academic Program Structure and Dual Degrees/Majors (with PACUP) Liaison: Shannon Mischler; Chair: Adam Lee; Members: Kerry Empey, Prashant Krishnamurthy, Erica Owen, Ammar Kinkhabwala, Helen Petracchi, Ada Youk, Gayle Rogers, Kathy Kelly, Michelle Sobolak
This committee will discuss academic program structures such as ARCOs, dual/joint degrees, stackable programs and how many credits can count for two programs concurrently.

Academic Probation/Suspension (with PACUP) Liaison: Belkys Torres; Chair: Haider Hamoudi; Robert Clift, Michael Gunzenhauser, Julia Reese, Larry Feick, Janet Grady, Brian Stewart, Kelly Wagner, Jon Vallano
This committee will consider the criteria by which students are placed on academic probation or suspended/dismissed for academic reasons and the process for each.

Course Repeat/G Grade (with PACUP) Liaison: Jen Marco; Chair: Linda DeAngelo; Members: Elizabeth Schlenk, John Twyning, Betty Braxter, Mary Besterfield-Sacre, Liann Tsoukas, Don Ulin, Nicole Cecchini
This committee will consider regulations regarding G grades (similar to incomplete grades), the conditions under which students can repeat a course, and how repeated courses appear on the student's transcript.

Graduate Faculty (UCGS only) Liaison: Jen Walker; Chairs: Saleem Khan, Jon Woon; Members: Robin Lee, Wendy Mars, Bryan Brown, Michael Dickey, Dennis Galletta, Madeline Kreider
This committee will consider the definitions of graduate faculty and adjunct graduate faculty, potential mentor training requirements, conditions under which graduate faculty status can be revoked and the process for appointment to graduate faculty.

Guidance on Graduate Mentoring and Advising (UCGS only) Liaison: Alydia Thomas; Chairs: Susan Grayson, Bob Parker, Pernille Roege; Members: Rithika Behera, Mark DeRuiter, Greg Kinzler, Nadine Robert, Jenay Willis, Robert Marshall
This committee will update the University's guide to graduate mentoring and advising (entitled *Elements of Good Academic Advising*) and make recommendations for University-wide mentor/advisor training and support.

Documents and Websites Available to the University Community

UCGS Policy AC 70,
https://www.policy.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Policies/Academic/Policy_AC_70.pdf
Voluntary Advance Option, https://www.provost.pitt.edu/voluntary-advance-option

2022-2023 UCGS Members

Jonathan Woon	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Pernille Roege	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Robert Clift	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Robert Marshall	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Erica Owen	Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Ammar Kinkhabwala	Katz Graduate School of Business
Dennis Galletta	Katz Graduate School of Business
Sara Moeller	Katz Graduate School of Business
Amanda Godley	Office of the Provost
Shannon Mischler	Office of the Provost
Jonathan Helm	Office of the Registrar, Observer
Julia Reese	School of Computing and Information
Prashant Krishnamurthy	School of Computing and Information
Christine Wankiiri-Hale	School of Dental Medicine
Nadine Robert	School of Dental Medicine
Jenay Willis	School of Education
Michael Gunzenhauser	School of Education
Linda DeAngelo	School of Education
Ali Schultz	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Ketki Raina	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Mark DeRuiter	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Michael Dickey	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Vivian Curran	School of Law
Xander Silva	School of Law
Rithika Behera	School of Medicine
Robin Lee	School of Medicine
Saleem Khan	School of Medicine
Wendy Mars	School of Medicine
Elizabeth Schlenk	School of Nursing
Susan Grayson	School of Nursing
Kerry Empey	School of Pharmacy
Madeline Kreider	School of Pharmacy
Ada Youk	School of Public Health
Danielle Nahas	School of Public Health
Jessica Burke	School of Public Health
Helen Petracchi	School of Social Work
Michelle Schein	SEPC
Bob Parker	Swanson School of Engineering
Bryan Brown	Swanson School of Engineering
Greg Kinzler	Swanson School of Engineering
Jung-Kun Lee	Swanson School of Engineering