



**University Council on Graduate Study Minutes  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

The minutes from the April 2023 meeting were approved (24 in favor).

**Academic Planning Proposals**

**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



University of  
Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost  
Graduate Studies

(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).

**Attendance:**

Ada Youk	School of Public Health	Faculty
Alan Meisel	School of Law	Faculty
Ali Schultz	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Student
Amanda Godley	Office of the Provost, Chairperson	Staff
Bryan Brown	Swanson School of Engineering	Faculty
Chris Bakkenist	School of Medicine	Faculty
Christine Wankiiri-Hale	School of Dental Medicine	Faculty
Danielle Nahas	School of Public Health	Student
Dennis Galletta	Katz Graduate School of Business	Faculty
Elizabeth Schlenk	School of Nursing	Faculty
Helen Petracchi	School of Social Work	Faculty
Jerry Dickinson	School of Law	Faculty
Jonathan Helm	Office of the Registrar, Observer	Staff
Jonathan Woon	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Faculty
Julia Reese	School of Computing and Information	Student
Jung-Kun Lee	Swanson School of Engineering	Faculty
Katherine Aird	School of Medicine	Faculty
Kerry Empey	School of Pharmacy	Faculty
Ketki Raina	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Faculty
Linda DeAngelo	School of Education	Faculty
Lisa Parker	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Faculty
Madeline Kreider	School of Pharmacy	Student
Mark DeRuitter	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Faculty
Melissa Bilec	Swanson School of Engineering	Faculty
Michael Dickey	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Faculty
Michael Gunzenhauser	School of Education	Faculty



University of  
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Office of the Provost  
Graduate Studies

Michelle Schein	SEPC	Faculty
Nadine Robert	School of Dental Medicine	Student
Pernille Roege	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Faculty
Prashant Krishnamurthy	School of Computing and Information	Faculty
Rithika Behera	School of Medicine	Student
Robert Clift	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Faculty
Robert Ferris	UPMC Hillman Cancer Center	Director
Robin Brooks	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Faculty
Robin Lee	School of Medicine	Faculty
Ronald Brand	School of Law	Faculty
Saleem Khan	School of Medicine	Faculty
Sanjeev Shroff	Swanson School of Engineering	Faculty
Sara Moeller	Katz Graduate School of Business	Faculty
Shannon Mischler	Office of the Provost, Staff	Staff
Susan Grayson	School of Nursing	Student
Vivian Curran	School of Law	Faculty
Wendy Mars	School of Medicine	Faculty
Yodit Betru	School of Social Work	Faculty
Zeke Villareal	Swanson School of Engineering	Student