



# University of Pittsburgh

*Office of the Provost*  
*Graduate Studies*

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## **University Council on Graduate Study Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

**3:00-5:00 p.m.**

**Zoom**

**Members Attending:** Kara Bernstein (Medicine), Alec Bosnic (Graduate Student Rep – Law), Paul Bové (A&S – Humanities), Jessica Burke (GSPH), Rosemary Capo (Arts and Sciences At-Large), Haley Cartwright (Graduate Student Rep – Medicine), Kevin Crowley (Education), Vivian Curran (Law), Sabina Deitrick (GSPIA), Sandie Engberg (Nursing), Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Maggie Folan (Pharmacy), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Malena Hirsch (GPSG President), Holger Hooch (Arts & Sciences), John Horn (Medicine), Jung Kun Lee (Engineering), Prashant Krishnamurthy (School of Computing & Information), Patti Mathay (University Registrar's Office), Tom Nolin (Interdisciplinary Rep), Leigh Patel (Education), Jawanza Rand (Graduate Student Rep – Education), Amanda Godley (Chair), Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff), Christine Wankiiri-Hale (Dental Medicine)

**Guests:** Education Representatives: Valerie Kinloch, Rochelle Woods, Sheila Conway, Sabina Vaught, Thomas Farmer, Elizabeth Nagle, Kelliann Davis, Michael Gunzenhauser and Jennifer Russell

The October 2020 Minutes were approved.

### **Academic Planning Proposals**

#### **Proposal to reorganize the academic structure within the School of Education.**

The primary purpose of the reorganization proposal is to terminate programs that are no longer offered and to reconfigure better represent the majors offered in the school by terminating several areas of concentration and establishing them as majors.

Council asked how the School plans to grow under the new structure. Plans include turning focus to increasing the programs with lower enrollment, build more online programs, establish collaborations within and outside of the School of Ed, increase diversity, and build new programs according to the market need.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. School of Education representatives, Leigh Patel and Kevin Crowley, were recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted unanimously in favor.

**Discussion**

Amanda Godley presented a summary of the Student Listening Session on Mental Health she hosted with international graduate students who volunteered to participate. Overall, international graduate students reported feeling isolated with or without the pandemic. In addition, students reported finding it difficult to connect with other graduate students from the United States. A discussion followed with ideas including create orientation events that extend beyond the beginning of the semester and increase events in which students and faculty can interact.

**Announcements**

Mentoring & Advising Summit RFP is live - <https://mailchi.mp/8f031172651e/summit-rfp-2021>

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45