



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

801 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-2137
Fax: 412-383-9640

University Council on Graduate Study Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Zoom

Members Attending: Amanda Godley (Chair), 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), Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Malena Hirsch (GPSG President), Holger Hook (Arts & Sciences), Stephanie Hoogendoorn (Office of the Provost, staff), 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), Helen Petracchi (Social Work), Morgan Pierce (Graduate Student Rep – A&S), Jawanza Rand (Graduate Student Rep – Education), Milsha Reed (Graduate Student Rep – Education), Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff), Christine Wankiiri-Hale (Dental Medicine)

Guests: Amy Aggelou (SHRS), Kevin Conley (SHRS), Adam Lee (SCI), and Joe Yurko (SCI)

The November 2020 Minutes were approved with one edit; add Morgan Pierce to the list of members in attendance.

Academic Planning Proposals

Proposal to establish a graduate certificate in Applied Data-Driven Methods within the School of Computing and Information.

The proposed graduate certificate in applied data-driven methods will serve two purposes. First, the independent curriculum will individuals achieve the computational and data skills necessary to support the increasingly data-oriented nature of many careers. Second, the certificate will serve as a computational basis for data-oriented graduate curricula that can be used in a stackable manner and will aid in the potential modification of the Library and Information Science curricula at the master's level.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. School of Computing and Information representative, Prashant Krishnamurthy was recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted unanimously in favor.

Proposal to establish a new major in Athletic Training leading to the Master of Science degree within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The establishment of the new major is in response to a mandate by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (the accrediting body of athletic training programs) that all professional training programs nationwide become master's degree level programs by 2022. Upon completion of the MS in Athletic Training students are eligible to sit for the Board of Certification, Inc. certification examination. Successful completion of this exam affords the candidate a variety of employment opportunities.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences representative, G. Kelley Fitzgerald was recused from the discussion and vote. 21 members present voted in favor of recommending approval with 1 abstention.

Discussion

Amanda Godley presented a summary of the results from the fall term Covid-19 graduate student survey. Primary points of discussion included: 1) how to help students feel more engaged in the Spring 2021 term despite the likely virtual setting we will be in and 2) how can schools better utilize the self-care days set for Feb 23 and March 24, 2021. Council brainstormed various ways to help engage students in the spring term including mental health check-ins in the classroom, small group engagements, and strong support from the faculty and administration to observe the designated self-care days. Council was enthusiastic to continue this conversation in future meetings.

Announcements

Dr. Godley reminded Council of the Childcare Interest Survey being conducted by Human Resources with a deadline of December 18, 2020. <https://www.hr.pitt.edu/news/interest-survey-childdependent-care-services-faculty-staff-and-students>

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00