



**University Council on Graduate Study Minutes  
Thursday, September 29, 2022  
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
2501 Posvar Hall (Provost's Suite)**

**Members Attending**

Ada	Youk	School of Public Health	Faculty
Ali	Schultz	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Student
Amanda	Godley	Office of the Provost	Chair
Ammar	Kinkhabwala	Katz Graduate School of Business	Student
Bob	Parker	Swanson School of Engineering	Faculty
Bryan	Brown	Swanson School of Engineering	Faculty
Christine	Wankiiri-Hale	School of Dental Medicine	Faculty
Claire	Guth	Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Student
Danielle	Nahas	School of Public Health	Student
Dennis	Galletta	Katz Graduate School of Business	Faculty
Elizabeth	Schlenk	School of Nursing	Faculty
Erica	Palmer	Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Faculty
Greg	Kinzler	Swanson School of Engineering	Student
Jonathan	Woon	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Faculty
Jonathan	Helm	Office of the Registrar, Observer	Staff
Jung-Kun	Lee	Swanson School of Engineering	Faculty
Ketki	Raina	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Faculty
Linda	DeAngelo	School of Education	Faculty
Madeline	Kreider	School of Pharmacy	Student
Michael	Gunzenhauser	School of Education	Faculty
Michael	Dickey	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Faculty
Michelle	Schein	Senate Educational Policy Committee	Faculty
Nadine	Robert	School of Dental Medicine	Student
Pernille	Roegen	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Faculty
Prashant	Krishnamurthy	School of Computing and Information	Faculty
Rithika	Behera	School of Medicine	Student
Robert	Marshall	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Student
Robin	Lee	School of Medicine	Faculty
Shannon	Mischler	Office of the Provost	Staff
Susan	Grayson	School of Nursing	Student
Vivian	Curran	School of Law	Faculty



## **Substitutes**

Tija Jacob, School of Medicine, substitute for Saleem Khan, School of Medicine.

The approval of the May 2022 Minutes was conducted over the summer by an email vote (18 affirm; 2 abstain).

## **Presentation**

Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, Office of the Provost welcomed everyone to the first in-person UCGS meeting since February 2019 and facilitated a school-level faculty and student representative meet and greet centered at each table.

Dr. Godley oriented all UCGS members to the [UCGS Policy AC 70](#). She 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.

Dr. Godley reviewed the goals for the upcoming year. Every UCGS member will be asked to serve on a committee to review policies and guidance for the PACUP and academic policies, mentoring, graduate faculty policy, graduate hourly worker and summer appointment, and the new international graduate student peer mentoring organization with over 500 students. She discussed the [Voluntary Advance Option](#), from the Office of the Provost which offers eligible faculty members the option to receive a voluntary payroll advance on their September paycheck, payable on September 7, 2022. Eligible graduate students are being offered a similar voluntary advance on their September stipend. 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 paychecks instead of monthly.

Dr. 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.



### Academic Planning Proposals

1. Dr. Steven Wendell presented the 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.

2. Dr. Erica Palmer and Dr. Randall Walsh presented a 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.

### Announcements

- New department in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences for Counseling and Behavioral Health.
- Letters of nomination for the Provost's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring will be accepted until Friday, October 14, 2022.
- Letters of nominations for The Provost's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring and the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching, Research, and Public Service Awards will be accepted until Friday, October 14, 2022.



University of  
**Pittsburgh**

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Graduate Studies**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.