



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

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University Council on Graduate Study Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2020

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Zoom

Members Attending: Amanda Godley (Chair), Kara Bernstein (Medicine), Paul Bové (A&S – Humanities), Jessica Burke (GSPH), Rosemary Capo (Arts and Sciences At-Large), Haley Cartwright (Graduate Student Rep – Medicine), Lillian Chong (Arts & Sciences – Natural Science) Kevin Crowley (Education), Vivian Curran (Law), Sabina Dietrick (GSPIA), Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Maggie Folan (Pharmacy), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Malena Hirsch (GPSG President), Holger Hock (Arts & Sciences), John Horn (Medicine), Michaela Houckhope (Grad Student Rep – GSPH), 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), Jay Rajgopal (Engineering), 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: Jeff Inman (Katz), Sara Moeller (Katz)

The December 2020 Minutes were unanimously approved with no edits.

Academic Planning Proposals

Proposal to establish a new major in Business Administration leading to a new degree type, the Doctor of Business Administration within the Katz Graduate School of Business.

The creation of the new degree type aims to educate middle to senior managers who seek to investigate and develop solutions to practical business problems using sophisticated research methods. In discussion, council members asked to define the difference between a PhD degree and the proposed DBA, which would be considered a professional doctorate. The program presenters explained that the DBA curriculum is cohort based and very scripted. Also, the DBA will aim to apply theory versus the PhD which focuses on developing theory. This program is set apart from others because it will be offered remotely, which should increase the applicant pool since many students will pursue this degree while continuing to work.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost and Chancellor that the proposal be approved. Katz representative, Dennis Galletta was recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted 25 in favor, zero opposed and one abstention.

Presentations

Graduate Procedures Subcommittee Report by Chair, Kevin Crowley

Charge: By April, develop policy/guidelines for Individual Development Plans.” The group has shared information about their schools’ processes and the student representatives talked about what it’s like to be mentored here at Pitt.

Thus far, the subcommittee has gathered several examples of good approaches to student advising and mentoring. Most cases included yearly evaluations.

3 issues the subcommittee will focus on: 1) what are the yearly routines....declare a goal as to what a strong process would look like, 2) opportunity to think about resources that support students and faculty (not just a compliance process) and 3) need flexibility in how this is applied, given the diversity of fields and programs.

Once recommendations take form, the group intends to consult with peer institutions for feedback of the plan.

Student Affairs Subcommittee Report by Co-chairs, Holger Hoock & Christine Wankiiri-Hale

Charge: To develop a recommendation, ideally by April 2021, for “diversity training” for graduate and professional students. The term “diversity training” serves as a placeholder for more nuanced visions of programs and support mechanism focused on anti-racism, diversity, and cross-cultural understanding to be required or suggested for all or some graduate and professional students (e.g., TATFs/GSRs). The committee is to consider what the content of any required or recommended training should be in outline, for training to be developed by OEDI. Currently, schools feature limited and varied requirements, including some curricular requirements typically linked to accreditation; minimal exposure at orientations; uncoordinated, ad hoc co-curricular programming; pedagogical preparation as a fairly common locus for EDI-focused training. In substance, dimensions of diversity considered at the school level vary widely, with very limited specific focus on either anti-racism or inter-cultural competency. The committee will consider the training needs of diverse student populations across schools while attending to fundamental principles and content areas to be covered by all. The subcommittee has conducted preliminary benchmarking of AAU privates and publics. Next steps include consulting with various leaders at Pitt.

Announcements

Social Justice Symposium – January 21

Assessment and Teaching Conference - February 12

Student self-care days – February 23 & March 24

Mentoring and Advising Summit (including graduate strand) – March 11

Engaged Research Forum - March 2

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.