



University of Pittsburgh

*Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies*

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University Council on Graduate Study Minutes Tuesday, October 22, 2019 3:00-5:00 p.m. 817 Cathedral of Learning

Members Attending

Nathan Urban (Office of the Provost, Chair), Paul Bové (A&S – Humanities), Jessica Burke (GSPH), Lillian Chong (A&S – Natural Sciences), Vivian Curran (Law), Sandie Engberg (Nursing), John Horn (Medicine), Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Maggie Folan (Substitute – Pharmacy), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Prashant Krishnamurthy (SCI), Jung-Kun Lee (Engineering), Amanda Leifson (Substitute, GPSG), Patti Mathay (University Registrar's Office), Tara Meyer (A&S – At Large), Erica Owen (Substitute – GSPIA), Andrew Strathern (A&S Social Sciences), Charlene Trovato (Education), Paula Janikowski (Office of the Provost, Staff)

Guests

Pam Toto (SHRS – Associate Professor and Director of the Doctor of Clinical Science program in Occupational Therapy), Elizabeth Skidmore (Chair and Associate Dean of Research), Sarah McMullen (Director, Alumni Relations – Health Sciences)

Approval of the September 2019 Minutes

A motion was made to and seconded to approve the minutes. No opposition.

Proposal from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences to modify the existing major in Occupational Therapy leading to the Doctor of Clinical Science degree and to establish a certificate in Implementation of Evidence in Clinical Practice

SHRS has had a Doctor of Clinical Science Program since 2015. The current program is a traditional brick and mortar program and SHRS is seeking to transition it to a hybrid program. Embedded in the hybrid program is a Certificate in Implementation of Evidence in Clinical Practice. The certificate would include content that is not so explicitly embedded in the traditional program. The doctoral program and graduate certificate are intended for occupational therapists, educated in the United States or internationally, seeking training in advanced knowledge and skills. The transition of the Doctor of Clinical Science to an online hybrid program is motivated by a pressing need for advanced practitioners in occupational therapy due to rapid growth in the profession, the changing demands in the health care system, and the need to extend SHRS's reach to meet these

areas of growth. An online hybrid program will enable SHRS to train students from across the nation and world, as well as, to meet the needs of students seeking flexible training programs while employed full-time.

Expectation is to close the face-to-face program once the students in it are completed and then offer it in a hybrid format that would attract a broader audience and more diversity of students.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members voted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Presentations

PhD Alumni Engagement

Sarah McMullen, Director of Alumni Relations Health Sciences talked about finding ways of engaging with PhD alumni who are not in academia. Where are those former PhD students, what are they doing? A group of PhD alumni were invited to participate in a focus group (in person or on the phone) or a survey (based on availability) to talk about their experience at the University and what they are doing now. Sarah presented results of the focus groups and survey.

The questions asked of alumni focused on the following areas:

1. Student Experience
2. Time on Campus
3. View as an employer now
4. What resources they used (while here at students and post-graduation if they had reached back at all to stay in touch)

AAU Stipend Data

Nathan Urban, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives and Chair of UCGS presented slides on and discussed AAU Stipend Data. One of the benefits we get from providing data to the AAU is benchmarking/comparison data. Every year we receive data on stipends from a set of AAU institutions that are willing to participate.

Duolingo Test Pilot

Nathan Urban, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives and Chair of UCGS presented slides on and discussed the Duolingo Test Pilot. There have been some discussions between Pitt and Duolingo – a Pittsburgh based company started by a CMU faculty member that is best known for its language learning app. Pitt is looking to pilot Duolingo English test – there is an opportunity, if schools are interested, to consider whether they would want to do a trial where the Duolingo test would be used as a placement tool. Someone from Duolingo will be on campus the first week in November.

Advantages of Duolingo:

1. TOEFL testing centers are not easily accessible in all areas of the world – For Duolingo you just need to have an internet connection.

2. TOEFL takes multiple hours to take the test – Duolingo test is 60 minutes.
3. TOEFL cost is \$200, plus travel, plus prep courses – Duolingo cost is \$45.
4. Duolingo has a huge database of test questions – the frequency at which a question is duplicated on another person’s test is very low - .1%.

Regulations/Policy Review – Handout Distributed

Making Title IX Mandatory for Graduate Students

The results of the AAU Climate Survey were released on October 15, 2019. Chancellor Gallagher addressed the University community in an [email](#) the same day. This launched a discussion among council as to whether Title IX Training should be mandatory for all graduate students. The discussion will continue in a future meeting.

Process for Removing Graduate Faculty Status

Council discussed the need to develop a process for removing graduate faculty status. The topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

Discussions

Regarding Graduate Subcommittees

Dr. Jessie Burke has agreed to chair the Student Affairs subcommittee, which will focus on issues related to postdocs.

The graduate procedures subcommittee, chaired by Nathan Urban, has changed focus and will develop policies around pre-doctoral fellows and trainees.

Announcements

Requiring GRE scores in graduate admissions

1. A mentoring panel will be offered as part of a faculty development effort on November 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05