



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

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University Council on Graduate Study Minutes **Tuesday, November 19, 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), Rachel Coombs (GPSG President), Vivian Curran (Law), Sandie Engberg (Nursing), Elizabeth Hernandez-Pease (GPSG – Policy Research Analysis), John Horn (Medicine), Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Daqing He (Substitute SCI), Holger Hooch (Arts and Sciences), Amanda Leifson (Substitute, GPSG), Patti Mathay (University Registrar's Office), Lindsay Clare Matsumura (Education), Tara Meyer (A&S – At Large), Sam Poloyac (Pharmacy), Charlene Trovato (Education), Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff)

Guests

Jay Darr (Director, University Counseling Center)

Approval of the October 2019 Minutes

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

Presentations

CGS Pathways Survey Data

Nathan Urban shared the results of part 1 of the CGS Pathways Survey. Part 1 of the survey was sent to 911 alumni and received 166 responses. Part 2 of the survey, which will be sent to currently enrolled doctoral students, will launch in February 2020. If you would like access to the survey data summary, please contact Nathan Urban.

University Counseling Center

Jay Darr presented on the current state of the University Counseling Center (UCC) and highlighted new services that have been implemented since his arrival to Pitt. Dr. Darr was pleased to announce that the UCC has not had a wait list since March of 2019. He attributes the improvement to the reconfiguration of the intake process, newly offered self-help tools, and the addition of counselors who are embedded in residence halls and on-site in some graduate schools. Dr. Darr encouraged Council to familiarize themselves with the services offered by the UCC

(<https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cc/services/>) and take advantage of the trainings made available to staff and faculty to learn more about recognizing and supporting

our students in distress.

Discussions

Plan for Pitt Refresh

Nathan Urban shared an upcoming initiative of the Office of the Provost and CFO's Office to review and recommend updates to the Plan for Pitt (<https://www.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Strategic-Plan-Presentation.pdf>). Dr. Urban encouraged Council to review the current version of The Plan and be prepared to offer suggestions for additions related to graduate and professional studies.

Announcements

1. The Office of the Provost – Graduate Studies and University Counseling Center will collaborate to offer an Open House for graduate and professional students on November 25, 2019.
2. The Office of the Provost held a panel discussion focused on mentoring. The panel was successful and more sessions will be offered in the spring term.
3. Dr. Urban is collecting interest in adopting the Duolingo exam from the graduate schools. Duolingo is an English proficiency test similar to the TOEFL.
4. The University-wide parenting panels for graduate/professional students and post-docs are scheduled for January 29 & February 7.
5. Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week will be the week of April 6, 2020. The week will kick-off with the University-wide 3MT Competition and other celebratory events are in the early planning stages.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20