



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

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University Council on Graduate Study Minutes

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

3:00-5:00 p.m. 2017 Cathedral of Learning

Members Attending

Nathan Urban (Office of the Provost, Chair), Oliver Beale (GPSG – Medicine), Rachel Coombs (GPSG – President), Vivian Curran (Law), Sandra Engberg (Nursing), Jennifer Enriquez (GPSG – VP of Committees), G. Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Holger Hock (Arts and Sciences), Milos Hauskrecht (Substitute – Computing & Information), John Horn (Medicine), Satish Iyengar (A&S – Natural Sciences), Lindsay Matsumura (Education), Tara Meyer, (Arts and Sciences), Sam Poloyac (Pharmacy), Jay Rajgopal (Engineering), and Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff)

Guests

Rabi Chatterjee and Sandra Douglas (Katz)

Minutes

The minutes from the October 2018 meeting were approved.

Proposal to establish a new major in Business Administration with Business Analytics leading to the MBA degree in the Katz Graduate School of Business.

The Katz Graduate School of Business proposed to establish a new major within the MBA degree that will combine the exact requirements of the Business Administration major with the existing Business Analytics certificate. Combining these two areas will be attractive to students interested in specializing in business analytics. The new major will also be granted a STEM CIP code, which will also be attractive to international students.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Dr. Urban again briefly discussed the AY 18-19 charge for each of the UCGS sub-committees and a sign-up sheet was passed around the room:

Graduate Student Affairs - Will focus on enhancing diversity and inclusion

Graduate Procedures – Suggest revisions to the Master's sections within Regulations Governing Graduate Study

GRE Scores in Graduate Admissions

Council held a follow-up discussion about the use of GRE scores in the graduate admissions process based on the two presentations made at the October 2018 meeting. The discussion yielded five potential action items: 1) there is a need to clarify to the Pitt graduate admissions community that University policy does not require that GRE scores be collected as part of the application, 2) acknowledge to the Pitt graduate admissions community that there are "good and bad" ways to use GRE scores, 3) suggest that all graduate programs address the possibility of a GRE waiver or GRE fee waiver to underprivileged prospective applicants, 4) it would be beneficial to offer a workshop to the Pitt graduate admissions community focused on

holistic admissions review, and 5) Encourage Schools to discuss internally their views on the value of GRE scores. The Provost Office will look to incorporate this topic into the February 1, 2019 Graduate Studies Retreat. Finally, the UCGS Graduate Student Affairs subcommittee will keep this topic in mind within its focus to enhance diversity and inclusion.

Other Professional Doctoral Degrees

A proposal to modify the Other Professional Doctoral Degrees section within Regulations Governing Graduate Study was discussed. Specifically, the request is to eliminate the minimum length of time (9 semesters of full-time study) required and instead require a minimum of 72 credits. The request stems primarily from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences' need to shorten some of their professional doctoral programs to stay nationally competitive, but the change would also benefit programs in other Schools.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the guidelines be changed. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Graduate Micro-Credentials

A proposal was discussed to create guidelines within the Regulations Governing Graduate Study introducing Graduate Micro-Credentials. Graduate Micro-Credentials are intended to provide awareness in a given topic or area and may be comprised on between four and nine credits. Within the discussion, Council raised two questions: 1) Must Micro-Credentials be offered through courses only or could workshops also suffice? And 2) Can the courses be offered as pass/fail? The proposal will be revisited at a future meeting to allow time to incorporate questions and comments from this discussion.

Announcements (given by Dr. Nathan Urban)

Save the date: The second annual Graduate Studies Retreat will be held on February 1, 2019.

The University purchased a CRM/ERM system called Salesforce. Currently, it is primarily used in Undergraduate Admissions who has had great success in increasing undergraduate applications. Some Schools have expressed interest in using Salesforce at the Graduate level as well. A presentation for a graduate recruiting and admissions audience will be offered in the future.

Graduate Student Experience in the Research University (gradSERU) will be offered again to our graduate/professional students in the spring 2019. Administering this survey will be time appropriately with the launching of the AAU Climate Survey.

Provost Cudd and Chancellor Gallagher have expressed interest in building the data collected about graduate students as well as making these data more public and transparent.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00