



# University of Pittsburgh

*Office of the Provost*  
*Graduate Studies*

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## **University Council on Graduate Study Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2017**

**3:00-5:00 p.m. 817 Cathedral of Learning**

### **Members Attending**

Nathan Urban (Provost's Office, Chair), Jonathan Arac (A&S Humanities), Jessica Burke (GSPH), Vivian Curran (Law), G. Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Michael Gunzenhauser (Education), Holger Hock (A&S Assoc Dean), John Horn (Medicine), Kenneth Jordan (Interdisciplinary), Jeff Inman (Substitute Katz), Satish Iyengar (A&S Natural Sciences), Irina Livezeanu (A&S Social Sciences), Tara Meyer, (Arts and Sciences), Kaitlin Powers (GPSG), Jay Rajgopal (Engineering), Jeff Shook (Social Work), Christopher Staten (GPSG President), Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff), Qing-Ming Wang (Engineering), Aliyah Weinstein (GPSG), Martin Weiss (Computing and Information), and Travis Wisor (University Registrar)

### **Guests**

Rabi Chatterjee (Katz), Amanda Brodish (Office of the Provost)

Council voted once to approve both the 2016 – 2017 Annual Report and the Minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting. All present were in favor of approval with one abstention.

### **Graduate Placement Data**

A discussion was held to explore three possible modifications to the current graduate placement data collection: 1) Schools would begin to report on the individual student level as opposed to the compiling prior to submission. This will be beneficial as the personalized education and predictive modeling initiatives progress. 2) Begin to collect placement data beyond immediate graduate, for example, at one year post-graduation or 3 years post-graduation. This will be especially helpful for PhD graduates, as programs will then be able to see beyond the post-doctoral experiences. 3) Begin referring to graduate "placement" as graduate "outcomes."

Members of council were generally positive about these changes. The Office of the Provost will continue working to implement the changes.

### **Proposal to establish a graduate certificate in Business Analytics in the Katz Graduate School of Business.**

The Katz Graduate School of Business proposed a new graduate certificate in Business Analytics. Katz is looking to increase overall enrollment, particularly their international students. This certificate will make international students more marketable in the United States, but will also be useful in their native countries.

Council briefly discussed the proposal. There was some concern about conflicting language in the proposal as to whether students can take the certificate as a stand-alone program or if they student must be enrolled in a graduate program at Pitt. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved pending clarification of the conflicting language, without the need to revisit at a future UCGS meeting. All members voted in favor of the motion.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

#### Student Affairs presented by Holger Hooch (chair)

The primary focus of this subcommittee is professional development. To date, the committee has surveyed the schools to learn what type of professional development activity already exists and to identify gaps. Upcoming goals are to continue compiling school survey results and gain the student perspective surrounding this topic.

#### Graduate Procedures presented by Tara Meyer and Kelley Fitzgerald (co-chairs)

This subcommittee is reviewing the various graduate student appointments and their policies. At their first discussion, the committee has identified the top three priorities as: 1) clarifying the descriptions of duties, 2) clarify questions about the appointment process, length of appointment term, and grievance procedures, and 3) review the stipend. Schools were surveyed to learn how they are using each appointment type. Upcoming goals are to review the survey results and continue discussions about the prioritized list.

### **Announcements**

Update on the tax reform bill and negative implications it could have on higher education, particularly for graduate students with appointment. The Office of the Provost, in partnership with the Office of Community and Governmental Relations, customized a platform for graduate and professional students to contact their elected officials. As with all of the Pitt community, graduate students are encouraged to use the with.pitt.edu as well.

The University will be using a new software called PeopleGrove. This platform will provide a community to structure and promote mentoring relationships whether they be between student and student, student and faculty, student and alumni, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00