



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

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University Council on Graduate Study Minutes **Tuesday, February 18, 2020** **3:00-5:00 p.m. 817 Cathedral of Learning**

Members Attending

Paul Bové (A&S – Humanities), Jessica Burke (GSPH), Rachel Coombs (GPSG President), Vivian Curran (Law), Sabina Deitrick (GSPIA), Sandie Engberg (Nursing), Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Katie Greeno (Social Work), Holger Hoock (Arts and Sciences), Prashant Krishnamurthy (School of Computing & Information), Jung-Kun Lee (Engineering), Amanda Leifson (Substitute, GPSG), Patti Mathay (University Registrar's Office), Lindsay Matsumura (Education), Jay Rajgopal (Engineering), Nathan Urban (Chair), Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff), Christine Wankiiri-Hale (Dental Medicine)

Guests

Stephanie Hoogendoorn (Office of the Provost)

Approval of the January 2020 Minutes

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

Policy Review

Mandating Title IX Training for Graduate and Professional Students

Council reviewed proposed language to add to Regulations Governing Graduate Studies that will mandate Title IX training for all new graduate and professional students at the University of Pittsburgh. The group voted unanimously to recommend approval to Provost Cudd.

Discussions

Conflict Resolution Center

GPSG President, Rachel Coombs, discussed the idea of a conflict resolution center. This center would be intended to serve graduate and professional students who are dealing with conflict with either another student, a staff member or faculty/advisor. Different from the reactionary role of an ombuds person, the center will play a more proactive role that will provide workshops and programming to teach students how to manage conflict and stop issues from progressing.

Advertising Courses

Council discussed how best to advertise courses in one graduate school to students in other graduate schools at Pitt. Though there was great interest in this topic, a resolution was not reached. A subgroup will be formed to investigate options further.

Subcommittee Reports

Graduate Procedures – Nathan Urban, Chair of the Graduate Procedures Subcommittee, presented a draft policy for pre-doctoral fellows and trainees. The group intends to provide a nearly final draft to the full Council before the end of the term for a vote to recommend approval to the Provost.

Student Affairs – Jessie Burke, Chair of the Student Affairs Subcommittee, updated Council on the progress of the Student Affairs subgroup, which is focusing on post-docs here at Pitt. The group has identified some topics that are important to post-docs including retirement, maternity leave, and childcare. The group will also discuss the pros and cons of having UCGS be responsible for the oversight of post-docs.

Presentations

Academic Analytics

Nathan Urban demonstrated outcome data as provided by Academic Analytics (AA). Currently, AA data is specific to students who have graduated with a PhD degree, but the company is interested in looking at the data of other graduate degrees as well.

Leave of Absence Policy Update

Stephanie Hoogendoorn informed council that a committee formed through the newly established Office of the Policy Development and Management is working to establish a leave of absence policy applicable to all undergraduate, graduate and professional students on campus. The intent is to include aspects that may apply only to graduate and professional students such as the parental accommodations guidelines.

Announcements (provided by Nathan Urban)

- The Graduate Studies Retreat - Monday, March 2, 2020.
- Graduate University Commencement – April 23, 2020.
- Graduate Honors Convocation - Monday, April 6, 2020.
- Pitt Fund\$ Me
- Graduate Student Unionization
- Tax Workshops for graduate students

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50