



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

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University Council on Graduate Study Minutes

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Zoom

Members Attending: Amanda Godley (Chair), Kara Bernstein (Medicine), Paul Bové (Arts & Sciences, Humanities), Jessica Burke (GSPH), Rosemary Capo (Arts and Sciences At-Large), Haley Cartwright (Graduate Student Rep – Medicine), Kevin Crowley (Education), Vivian Curran (Law), Sandie Engberg (Nursing), G. Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Malena Hirsch (GPSG President), Holger Hock (Arts & Sciences), John Horn (Medicine), Jung-Kun Lee (Engineering), Prashant Krishnamurthy (School of Computing & Information), Michael Madison (Interdisciplinary), Patti Mathay (University Registrar's Office), Leigh Patel (Education), Helen Petracchi (Social Work), Morgan Pierce (Graduate Student Rep – A&S), Jay Rajgopal (Engineering), Jawanza Rand (Graduate Student Rep – Education), Carissa Slotterback (Substitute – GSPIA), Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff), Christine Wankiiri-Hale (Dental Medicine)

Guests: Ronald Brand (Law), Haider Hamoudi (Law), Max Laun (Law), and Alan Meisel (Law)

The February 2021 Minutes were unanimously approved with no edits.

Academic Planning Proposals

1. Proposal to establish a new online graduate certificate in International Business Law & Dispute Resolution

This online certificate, to be offered through Pitt Online, is designed for international and domestic professionals, both lawyers and nonlawyers, who work or wish to work or wish to work in the international commercial legal area, and who seek to enhance their careers by expanding their knowledge, skills, and professional understanding of international business law.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Law representative, Vivian Curran was recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted unanimously in favor.

Presentations

UCGS Subcommittee Updates

The chairs of each subcommittee gave a brief report of their progress. A full set of recommendations will be presented at the May 2021 meeting and voted on for further development.

Graduate Procedures Subcommittee – Kevin Crowley

- Supportive of annual evaluations especially within large PhD programs and the group is developing a list of recommended items to center the evaluations on.
- Would like to increase mentoring for those who may track towards non-academic careers.
- Upon acceptance of the subcommittee's recommendation, the group would like to see an implementation group assembled that includes many student voices.

Student Affairs Subcommittee – Holger Hoock & Christine Wankiiri-Hale

- The group has many with several experts and leaders across the University on the topic of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Upon acceptance of the subcommittee's recommendation, the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will develop the training geared specifically towards graduate students.
- This training should include curricular development training for our graduate students who teach.

Announcements

Connecting with Our Students: How Simple Actions & Conversations can have Positive Results w/ Cheryl Paul - March 29

Provost Award for Excellence and Doctoral Mentoring Awards Ceremony - March 31

Holistic Admissions Presentation w/ Jenn Seng & Kellie Kane – April 8

Graduate & Professional Student Appreciate Week - April 5-9

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.