



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

801 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-2137
Fax: 412-383-9640

University Council on Graduate Study Minutes

Tuesday, May 11, 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), Kerry Empey (Pharmacy), Sandie Engberg (Nursing), G. Kelley Fitzgerald (SHRS), Dennis Galletta (Katz), Holger Hock (Arts & Sciences), Jung-Kun Lee (Engineering), Prashant Krishnamurthy (School of Computing & Information), Michael Madison (Interdisciplinary), Patti Mathay (University Registrar's Office), Erica Owen (Substitute – GSPIA), Helen Petracchi (Social Work), Morgan Pierce (Graduate Student Rep – A&S), Jay Rajgopal (Engineering), Jennifer Walker (Office of the Provost, Staff), Christine Wankiiri-Hale (Dental Medicine)

Guests: Tom Akiva (Education), Mary Allias (SHRS), David Beck (SHRS), Lori Delale-O'Connor (Education), Diane Kirk (Education), Michael Gunzenhauser (Education), Darris Means (Education), Rachel Robertson (Education), Cassie Quigley (Education), John Stoner (UCIS), and Rochelle Woods (Education)

The April 2021 Minutes were unanimously approved with no edits.

Academic Planning Proposals

Proposal to establish a new major in Physician Assistant Studies leading to a new degree type, the Doctor of Physician Assistant Studies within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences proposed to establish a new degree type, the Doctor of Physician Assistant Studies. The Master of Science in physician assistant studies will continue to be offered, unchanged. The creation of the doctoral level aims not to expand the scope of clinical healthcare practices of Physician Assistants (PA), but rather to enhance the role of the PA in interdisciplinary healthcare clinical and administrative teams by further professional development of their competencies in scholarly inquiry and the areas of practice-based learning and quality improvement.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost and Chancellor that the proposal be approved. SHRS representative, G. Kelley Fitzgerald, was recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted unanimously in favor.

Proposal to establish seven (7) new majors (Education Leadership, Education Policy & Social Change, Higher Education, Special Education, Urban Education, Out-of-School Learning, and STEM) leading to the Doctor of Education degree within the School of Education.

The proposal to establish 7 new majors leading to the EdD degree is a part of the overall School of Education's reorganization plan. The new majors will streamline the requirements and strengthen the curriculum in terms of both the major and the method of Improvement Science. The new majors will also better align to the social justice and equitable teachings within the School of Education.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. Education representative, Kevin Crowley, was recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted 18 in favor, zero opposed and one abstention.

Proposal to terminate four (4) majors (Administrative and Policy Studies, Instruction and Learning, Learning Sciences and Policy, and Psychology in Education), and associated Areas of Concentration within, leading to the Doctor of Education degree within the School of Education.

The proposal to terminate 4 majors leading to the EdD degree is a part of the overall School of Education's reorganization plan. Most of the programs being terminated will be found in new, refreshed EdD offerings (proposed above) that will better align with our newly reorganized structure in the School and incorporates the new missions and vision.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved with one revision. The School of Education will be asked to update the proposals to give currently enrolled students the choice to move to the new program or stay in the structure under which they were admitted. Education representative, Kevin Crowley, was recused from the discussion and vote. Members present voted 18 in favor, zero opposed and one abstention.

Proposal to establish eight (8) graduate certificates within the University Center for International Studies, including: African Studies (12 credits), Asian Studies (12 credits), European Union Studies (15 credits), Global Studies (12 credits), Latin American Social & Public Policy (15 credits), Latin American Studies (15 credits), Russian East European Studies (15 credits) and West European Studies (15 credits).

The University Center for International Studies proposed the creation of 8 new graduate certificates in the areas listed above. These certificates will be aimed towards master's level students at the University of Pittsburgh. A second series of graduate certificates pre-faceted with "Advanced" are also being modified to be aimed towards doctoral level students and will have different requirements.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposals be approved. Members present voted 18 in favor, zero opposed and one abstention.

Policy Revisions

Revisions to the Advanced Standing Credits Policy (formerly 09-04-06)

The policy will require updates to explain how we handle military credit and highlight that credits can be granted for experiences that did not take place at an accredited institution. PACUP will also review and advise on the edits to the policy from an Undergraduate perspective.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the policy be modified provided the word “may” continue to be used to allow schools leeway with accepting credits. Members present voted 18 in favor, zero opposed and one abstention.

Subcommittee Final Recommendations

Student Affairs Subcommittee

Charge: Recommend policy and guidelines for diversity training for graduate and professional students. Currently, all new graduate and professional students are required to complete Title IX training but not diversity and anti-racism training. The committee will make recommendations about whether we should create a similar requirement for diversity and anti-racism training and what that training should include.

Recommendations of subcommittee: 1) Require foundational training for all graduate and professional students. 2) Offer enhanced training for academic appointees (TA, TF, GSA and GSR) and predoctoral trainees and fellows. 3) Encourage collaboration between the Office of the Provost – Graduate Studies and the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion to establish robust and visible training for new graduate and professional students, to communicate professional development opportunities, and to highlight exemplary work and promising practices in graduate and professional schools and programs.

Graduate Procedures Subcommittee

Charge: Recommend policy and guidelines for yearly individual development plans (IDPs) for PhD students and yearly meetings with advisors/mentors about the IDPs. Many of our peer institutions require these. They are a key part of helping PhD students prepare for a range of future careers, in and beyond academia, and leadership skills.

Recommendations of subcommittee: 1) All PhD students should be required to participate in a yearly evaluation process that is documented in writing. 2) The use of individual development plans (IDP) should be encouraged in the evaluation and mentoring process with the understanding that different IDP formats may be needed for different disciplines. 3) PhD training programs should approach mentoring as a collective responsibility and create opportunities for students to seek mentoring beyond their advisor. 4) PhD training programs should provide mentoring that prepares students for both academic and non-academic career outcomes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.