



University of
Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

**University Council on Graduate Study Minutes
Tuesday, May 13, 2025**

The April meeting minutes were approved with 12 in favor, 3 abstentions. Three members arrived after the minutes were approved.

The first presentation was a report on the English Language Institute (ELI) English Placement Test (EPT) pilot from Vice Provost Godley and the Director of the ELI, Dr. Dawn McCormick. Initial results of the pilot were positive, with first year GPAs for international graduate and undergraduate students (both those who did and did not enroll in English language support classes) comparable or higher than prior years. There were no concerns with continuing the pilot for another year while the related university policy (AC07) is in the decommissioning process so that it can be updated.

Academic Policy Review

Credential Overlap Regulation

The Credential Overlap Regulation was presented by VP Godley for discussion. The policy addresses limitations of the prior policy on newer kinds of graduate programs, such as stackable credentials and accelerated undergraduate to graduate programs. Council members raised questions about the sequential pathways language and how the three different undergraduate to graduate scenarios might be better clarified in the policy. Council members also asked for clarification about how the revised advanced standing policy relates to the revised credential overlap, and how schools might incorporate the two policies most efficiently for their unique needs. The proposal was recommended for approval pending clarification of the language around undergraduate to graduate credit overlap, 14 in favor, 2 abstain.

Academic Program Proposals

The School of Education presented a modification to eight EdD programs to reduce required credits from 18 to 10 and to update the curriculum. The programs impacted are Education Leadership, EdD Education Policy and Social Change, EdD; Health and Physical Activity, EdD; Higher Education, EdD; Out-of-School Learning, EdD; Special Education, EdD; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), EdD; and Urban Education, EdD. The reduced number of overall credits (from 60 to 52) is more in line with typical practice across other programs in the SOE and would align faculty teaching hours with the requirements outlined in the Faculty Union CBA. The credits will be removed from summer dissertation advising, which was previously uncompensated time for faculty and inconsistent across majors. The program modifications will reduce tuition costs for students and add professional development opportunities to better support students as they prepare to graduate.



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Council members asked for clarification about the academic terms in which credits would be reduced, and about the research opportunities for students with this modification. The proposal was recommended for approval with 16 in favor, 2 abstain.

The School of Public and International Affairs presented a modification to their Masters in International Development program to reduce the required credits from 48 to 36 and to reduce the time to degree from four to three terms. The modification will bring the highly ranked program into closer alignment with peer institutions and will allow for faculty resources to be better focused on strengths and research interests. The hope is that the modification will help to reverse a 10-year decline in enrollment by bringing down costs and making the program timeline more attainable for new students. Council members did not have any questions or concerns about the proposal. The proposal was recommended for approval with 17 in favor, 1 abstention.

The School of Medicine presented a proposal to develop a cooperative degree in Precision Regenerative Medicine with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). The program will offer a PhD and will admit a select group of 10 students each year. Each cohort will spend their first year taking classes at Pitt and then transition between Dublin and Pittsburgh for research and elective courses in subsequent years. Funding will be covered by the SOM in year one, and then by the institution in which the student is completing their research in years 2-5. Students will be heavily engaged with SOM and Bioengineering research in SSOE. This program will be the first of its kind for Pitt and presents an opportunity for future international partnerships. Council members were interested in ways that their own schools might partner with this program and raised questions about the transfer process between the two schools and whether there was a structure in place to ensure that students move between the schools as intended. Council members also inquired about the funding model and whether SOM felt that it was a viable plan in the current funding environment. The proposal was recommended for approval with 14 in favor, 1 abstain.

Announcements

There will be a June meeting, Tuesday 6/10 from 3 to 5 pm on Teams.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.



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Attendance

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Grad Faculty	Peng	Liu
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Grad Faculty	Jonathan	Woon
Office of the Provost	Chair	Amanda	Godley
Office of the Provost	Staff	Courtney	Syskowski
Office of the Registrar, Observer	Staff	Jonathan	Helm
School of Dental Medicine	Grad Faculty	Dobrawa	Napierala
School of Education	Grad Student	Gerard	Dorve-Lewis
School of Education	Grad Faculty	Michael	Gunzenhauser
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Student	Abdulmohsen	Alroumi
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Mark	DeRuiter
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Michael	Dickey
School of Medicine	Grad Student	Brooke	Dresden
School of Medicine	Grad Faculty	Arjumand	Ghazi
School of Medicine	Grad Faculty	Saleem	Khan
School of Nursing	Grad Student	Myeong-ga	Cho
School of Nursing	Grad Faculty	Elizabeth	Schlenk
School of Pharmacy	Grad Student	Christina	Kazarov
School of Pharmacy	Faculty	Kerry	Empey
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Faculty	Bryan	Brown

Additional attendees: Stephanie Hoogendoorn, OTP; Dawn McCormick, ELP; Rachel Robertson, SOE; Lisa Alfredson, SPIA; Carissa Slotterback, SPIA