Proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Dental Public Health from the School of Dental Medicine

The proposed certificate program will replace an informal arrangement for DMD students to simultaneously earn a Master of Public Health (MPH). Moving forward, the MPH program will accommodate 2 Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) students per year. The certificate may actually be more attractive to DMD students because they can learn about Public Health (and earn a certificate) without completing the entire MPH program. About 10 students per year are expected to enroll in the certificate program.

A council member asked how the school will select the two students who can complete the MPH. The School of Dental Medicine will implement an application process. It was also clarified that the proposed certificate is only available to DMD students.

Council briefly discussed the proposed certificate. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the certificate be approved. All members voted in favor of the motion.
Proposal to Establish a Doctor of Occupational Therapy from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
The proposed new entry-level doctorate is driven by new policy endorsed the Board of occupational therapy’s national organization. It is further anticipated that accreditors will eventually require the doctorate in occupational therapy.

A council member asked if there is any concern about offering a program that costs an additional year of tuition. SHRS researched this and does not believe it is a concern. In fact, SHRS recently has lost a few of their best applicants who decided to go to schools who offer a doctorate program instead of Pitt.

A council member asked if there are any diversity concerns by offering a doctorate. SHRS believes Pitt will be more competitive in this area by offering a doctorate degree program.

SHRS further clarified that they have the faculty committees in place to administer the comprehensive and capstone project milestone. The Doctor of Occupational Therapy is a new degree type and the Chancellor would have the final authority to approve. Finally, if students leave the doctorate program early, they would not receive a master’s degree.

Council had no additional discussion. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the Doctor of Occupational Therapy be approved. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Proposal to Establish a Certificate of Advanced Study in Teaching with an area of concentration in Urban Education from the School of Education
This certificate will provide students opportunities to be exposed to a conceptual framework to understand the urban school environment. Beyond the school’s Master of Arts of Teaching programs, additional students from the school can take the certificate program, as well as in-service teaching professionals in regional school districts and community members involved in youth programming. The goal is to enroll ten students to begin in the summer 2016.

A council member asked if the program will accommodate working students. Yes, classes will offered outside school placements.

A council member asked why the degree is an area of concentration within a Certificate of Advanced Study in Teaching, as opposed to simply a Certificate of Advanced Study in Urban Education. The presenter replied that this is not solely a program in urban education, rather the focus of this certificate is teaching within an urban school environment. Most certificates in urban education are focused on policy.
Additionally, the presenters state that they have been talking to the School of Social Work about collaboration from the beginning of the program development, and one of the summer courses will feature guest teaching from Social Work.

Council had no additional discussion. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the certificate program be approved. All members voted in favor of the motion.

2014-2015 Activities

Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG)
Joe Kozak, president of the GPSG, presented an overview of their activities for the 2015-2016 academic year. In August 2015 in the week before classes started, GPSG hosted an orientation for new students with the Office of International Services. The focus of the event was a resource fair. About 500 students attended, which is approximately 16% of the total new graduate students (3,000). GPSG surveyed the orientation attendees and suggestions included adding speakers, presentations, and a welcome address.

GPSG’s goal is to host one social event and one professional development event monthly; the professional development event is a new goal. Additionally, GPSG aims to reach 20% of graduate and professional student population. To date, their reach is at 13%.

In November, GPSG conducted a climate survey with over 600 students completing it. They are finalizing the results. They are also interested in contributing to the university’s strategic plan.

Middle States Periodic Review Report Update
Stephanie Hoogendoorn, Office of the Provost, reported on the Periodic Review Report (PRR). As part of our accreditation requirements, the University of Pittsburgh is obligated to submit a Periodic Review Report to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Our Periodic Review Report, due the fifth year following reaccreditation, needs to be submitted by June 1, 2017.

In addition to submitting a Periodic Review Report, we are required to demonstrate verification of compliance with accreditation-relevant federal regulations in the following areas:

1. Student identity verification in distance and correspondence education;
2. Transfer of credit policies and articulation agreements;
3. Title IV program responsibilities;
4. Institutional records of student complaints;
5. Required information for students and the public;
6. Standing with state and other accrediting agencies;
7. Contractual relationships; and
8. Assignment of credit hours.

To this end, the Office of the Provost is appointing members to two committees, which will be chaired by Vice Provost Juan Manfredi, who also serves as our Middle States Accreditation Liaison. One committee is the University's Periodic Review Report Steering Committee and this committee is charged to prepare materials presenting a coordinated response to the topics to be covered in the Periodic Review Report. The second committee is the University’s Compliance Committee for the Periodic Review Report charged to prepare materials to demonstrate compliance in the eight areas listed above.

Additionally, Council discussed the differences and variations between regional accreditors and the specialized accreditors who accredit (typically) individual programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.