

**TO:** University Council on Graduate Study  
**FROM:** Patricia Beeson  
**DATE:** September 5, 2006  
**SUBJECT: Next Meeting of Council: Tuesday, September 12, 2006, 3-5 p.m.  
817 Cathedral of Learning**

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If you are unable to attend this meeting, please send a substitute in your place and e-mail Paula Janikowski (paulaj@provost.pitt.edu) or phone (x4-0790).

## AGENDA

### **I. Introduction**

### **II. Approval of Minutes, May 16, 2006 (attached)**

### **III. 2005-2006 Annual Report of UCGS (attached)**

UCGS bylaws state that the Council is to communicate its decisions to the faculty, students, and administrative officers of the University annually. I ask council to review the report prior to posting on our Web site.

### **IV. Announcements**

#### **A. Update from Vice Provost Beeson on the National Research Council Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs**

The NRC has begun data collection for its first assessment of research-doctorate programs since 1995. Vice Provost Beeson will review the study and the process by which data will be collected.

#### **B. Graduate Recruiting Workshops**

Council will discuss the possibility of the University providing workshops on graduate student recruiting and financial aid.

#### **C. Update from Vice Provost Beeson on Changes to the GRE**

The revised GRE general test is scheduled to be released in Fall 2007. Vice Provost Beeson will review the changes being made and discuss implications for the graduate programs.

**V. Program Proposals, Graduate School of Public Health (attached)**

**A. Certificate Program in Minority Health and Health Disparities (Revised)**

The purpose of this certificate is to provide students with a foundation for eliminating disparities through conducting research in the area of minority health and working in communities where disparities exist. Members of minority groups in the United States die more frequently than their white peers from preventable diseases such as heart disease, obesity, and HIV. This program addresses the systemic underpinnings of health disparities and trains students to design interventions that are appropriate to minority populations.

Council members asked that the revised proposal address the following issues:

- the research portion of the proposal should be clearly defined for different types of students;
- the proposal should address recruiting students outside of GSPH and making connections to other programs and schools, such as the School of Medicine;
- the proposal should state that the certificate is not a research program.

**B. Certificate Program in Evaluation of Public Health Promotion and Health Education Programs**

This certificate program provides students with a core set of courses that will enhance their skills in program evaluation. Evaluation of health promotion and education programs is a core competency for behavioral and social science departments in schools of public health, and its importance is recognized through the major national accrediting bodies. Students in this certificate program will gain the skills and knowledge necessary for effective program evaluation, including formulating appropriate and measurable objectives and outcomes, assessing community concerns and needs, developing appropriate data collection and analysis methods, and interpreting data on program performance.

**C. Certificate Program in Recruitment/Retention in Public Health Research and Service Programs**

This program will provide students with the knowledge and training necessary to carry out a wide range of successful recruitment programs. The recent focus on health disparities by the NIH and other government agencies requires practitioners skilled in recruiting targeted populations for study. This certificate program will provide students with the training and skills necessary to do effective recruitment and retention, including knowledge of relevant social marketing and community organization literature, health literacy, focus group methods, research ethics, creating and maintaining community advisory boards, recruitment strategies like direct mail and internet recruitment, publication design, and public relations.

PEB/mad

*Attachments*

cc: Barbara Repasi Heron  
Michele Colvard