University Council on Graduate Study  
Report on 2007-2008 Activities

As stated in its bylaws, the University Council on Graduate Study is to communicate its decisions to the faculty, students, and administrative officers of the University. If you have comments on the activities as reported here or suggestions for agenda items, please contact Vice Provost Patricia Beeson at 412-624-0790 or via email at beeson@pitt.edu.

Reports Given to UCGS

Update on International Recruiting from the Office of International Services
David Clubb, George Kacenga, and Charles Nieman discussed the recruitment of international graduate and professional students. The speakers reviewed their procedures for evaluating international transcripts and applications. They discussed ideas to more thoroughly evaluate foreign applications, such as using our alumni to conduct interviews of applicants in foreign countries. They commented on potential visa and travel requirements for both international and domestic students enrolled in a joint degree program.

Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Byron Kohut, the incoming president of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) for 2008-2009, reported on the 2007-2008 activities. Activities included: awarding travel grants, promoting a student discount program, and increasing social and cultural opportunities. The GPSA held a referendum to inquire whether graduate and professional students would support a $5 per semester increase to the student activity fee. Since 70% of the respondents voted against the referendum, no further action was taken on the proposed student increase.

UCGS Committee Activities

The Graduate Procedures Committee, chaired by Eleanor Feingold, was charged with making recommendations on polices and procedures for joint degree programs between the University of Pittsburgh and another university (domestic or foreign). In accordance with Regulations Governing Graduate Study, these programs may result in a student earning two separate masters’ degrees, a master’s and a first professional degree, or a master’s or first professional degree and a doctoral degree, but never result in a student earning two separate doctoral degrees. The committee considered issues surrounding the establishment of guidelines of joint degree programs. The committee identified two main issues. The first concerned the motivation for offering a joint program and also how that the program could be coordinated between two schools to maintain a truly integrated program. The second issue concerned the evaluation of the examination or thesis requirements for both degrees. Committee members decided that all requirements for the degree to be awarded by the University of Pittsburgh would have to be approved by our faculty. As the committee further discussed joint degree programs, it concluded that when possible, joint degrees should be handled as credit transfer agreements.
The **Graduate Student Affairs Committee**, chaired by Judith Erlen, was charged with making a recommendation about whether the University should consider adopting a parental accommodation policy for graduate students. In 2006-2007, the committee decided to recommend that a policy be established at the University. The committee worked to develop a set of basic guidelines as part of their recommendation for a policy. The committee reviewed information collected from graduate students and policies from other schools. The committee identified the following three sets of issues: academic, financial, and eligibility (birth mother, father, or adoptive parent). The committee concluded that the fundamental objective of the policy should be to help new parents make progress toward their degree. The committee agreed that when possible schools should be flexible about academic accommodations. The committee did not reach a conclusion on university guidelines and found that the financial issues were the most complicated to resolve. The GSA/TA/TF policy provides guidelines that are currently being applied to give medical leave to birth mothers. The GSR policy raises questions about how to provide medical leave to birth mothers. There are many remaining questions independent of medical leave. The issues are complicated and need further discussion.

The *ad hoc* **Doctoral Mentoring Award Committee** was charged with carrying out the third year of awarding the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring, including the review of applications. A formal request for nominations was sent out in Fall 2007, and the committee received 31 nominations. Four awards were given at a reception held on April 15, 2008. The 2008 awardees were Louise Comfort, Donald DeFranco, Leon Gleser, and Kenneth Jordan.

**Review of Proposals**

**Graduate Certificate in European Union Studies**  
**University Center of International Studies**  
The purpose of this program is to educate students about the European Union so that they may successfully work in academic, business, governmental, and other environments. The curriculum includes coursework, foreign language, a research paper, and a co-curricular activity. The program will be jointly administered by the European Union Center of Excellence and the Center for Russian and East European Studies. It draws on courses and faculty from Arts and Sciences, Law, and GSPIA.

**Master of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics**  
**School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences**  
The purpose of this program is to prepare orthotists and prosthetists to work as a member of a complete rehabilitation team of doctors, therapists, and other professionals. The curriculum combines the study of both orthotics and prosthetics with internships as recommended by the American Academy of Orthotics and Prosthetics. Students who complete this program will be qualified for employment in hospitals, private practice settings, or in orthotics and prosthetics manufacturing and development facilities. Upon completion of this program, students will be prepared to take the American Board of Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics examinations.
Graduate and Post-baccalaureate Certificates in Nuclear Engineering  
Swanson School of Engineering  
The purpose of these programs is to prepare students to enter the growing nuclear industry field.  
The curriculum will focus on operations and safety. The programs will be administered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science.

PhD in Clinical and Translational Science  
School of Medicine  
The purpose of this program is to train clinical researchers to conduct research that involves testing basic science discoveries and laboratory innovations in human beings and adopting scientifically tested effective interventions into actual clinical practice. The program requires a knowledge base of medicine, health care, and the healthcare delivery system, so entering students will either have a clinical professional doctoral degree or be enrolled in a clinical professional doctoral program, a clinical residency program, or a clinical fellowship program. The program will be administered by the School of Medicine but will involve faculty and students from all schools within the health sciences.

PhD in Health Services Research and Policy  
Graduate School of Public Health  
The purpose of this program is to train students to examine the use, costs, quality, accessibility, delivery, organization, financing and outcomes of health care services. Students will have the opportunity to conduct research in the areas of long-term care, pharmaceutical economics, behavioral economics, quality improvement, organizational theory, and health policy. Students completing the program will be prepared for positions in academia, government or the private sector as experts in health services research and policy.

PhD in Learning Sciences and Policy  
School of Education  
The purpose of this program is to train students to conduct research in the relationship between policy and practice with a special emphasis on the role of learning. This program will bring three groups of faculty expertise together into a collaborative research and training program: learning sciences in education; content-based educational research; and educational policy and organization change. Student completing this program will be prepared to be research scholars who have the understanding and vision to become leaders in promoting educational change. This program is intended to replace the existing PhD program in Cognitive Studies within the Department of Instructional Learning, and once all active students have finished, the Cognitive Studies program will be closed.

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Approved April 8, 2008. Approved by the Provost May 1, 2008.  
The purpose of this program is to develop competent entry-level physician assistants, who will serve as tomorrow’s leaders in the provision of patient care, education and professional service.
Upon completion this training program, students will be eligible to take a certification examination issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Post Master’s Certificate
School of Nursing
The purpose of this program is to provide advanced neonatal specialty training to nurses who already have earned a Master’s Degree in Nursing. The curriculum includes didactic and clinical learning experiences to prepare students to care for high-risk infants and their families. UPMC Children’s Hospital and Magee Women’s Hospital both agree to serve as a clinical site and to provide classroom and bedside teaching.

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) in Environmental and Occupational Health
Graduate School of Public Health
The purpose of this program is to provide advanced professional education for individuals who desire leadership positions in high-level administration and/or decision-making in an environmental health setting. This program emphasizes a practice-oriented, interdisciplinary approach to research that encompasses in its coursework the competencies of the five core areas of Public Health: environmental health, biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy and management, and behavioral and community health aspects of Public Health. The Environmental and Occupational Health Department also offers a PhD program which prepares individuals to conduct scientific research in environmental toxicology.

Master of Science in Pharmacy Administration
School of Pharmacy
The purpose of this program is to prepare pharmacists to manage the intricacies of regulatory agencies, the clinical care of patients, evidence-based therapy, and medication therapy. Pharmacists who want to become pharmacy managers need specialized training beyond the Doctor of Pharmacy, because health care delivery is becoming increasingly complex. The curriculum includes two rotations and a research project having significant impact on improving patient care. Students completing this program will be prepared to assume leadership positions in hospital systems and retail pharmacy chains.

Graduate and Post-baccalaureate Certificates in Community-Based Participatory Research and Practice
Graduate School of Public Health
The purpose of these programs is to train students to collaborate with community representatives to assess community concerns and needs in relation to specific public health issues. Students will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to engage community members, employ local knowledge in the understanding of health problems, and involve community members in the design of interventions.
Documents and Web Sites Available to the University Community

http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/UCGSAnnualReport06-07.pdf

Regulations Governing Graduate Study at the University of Pittsburgh, University Council on Graduate Study, University of Pittsburgh.
http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/reg.html

http://www.uncp.edu/bulletins/graduate/index.html

Policy Statement for Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, and Graduate Student Assistants, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh.
http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/TATFGSAPolicyStatement.pdf

Policy Statement for Graduate Student Researchers, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh.
http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/GSRPolicyStatement.pdf

Elements of Good Academic Advising, University Council on Graduate Study, University of Pittsburgh.
http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/advising.html

The Guide to Graduate and Professional Programs, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh.
https://www.pitt.edu/Graduate/

Graduate Faculty Membership Roster, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. Updated three times a year at http://www.ir.pitt.edu/gradfac/homepg.htm

Choosing A Dissertation Advisor, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh.
http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/advisor.html


Graduate Recruitment City Panorama Brochure (Revised 2005), Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh.

Format Guidelines for Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Preparation at the University of Pittsburgh, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh.
http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/etd/pdf/ETDformat.pdf

Thesis and Dissertation Word Templates (Revised 2005)

ETD LaTeX Template, http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/etd/latextemplate.html
2007-2008 UCGS Standing Committees

Graduate Procedures: Chair, Eleanor Feingold
Graduate Student Affairs: Chair, Judith Erlen

2007-2008 UCGS Ad hoc Committee

Doctoral Mentoring Award: Chair, Patricia Beeson

2007-2008 UCGS Members

Patricia Beeson, Chair
Ray Burdett, Health and Rehabilitative Sciences
Patrick Card, Interdisciplinary
Steve Carr, Arts and Sciences/At-Large
Nicole Constable, Arts and Sciences
Valerie Copeland, Social Work
Robert Devaty, Arts and Sciences/Natural Sciences
Judith Erlen, Nursing
Eleanor Feingold, Public Health
Amanda Godley, Education
Robert Gibbs, Pharmacy
Donald Hoffman, Dental Medicine
John Horn, Medicine
Margaret Mahoney, Law
Yvonne Mburu, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
David Miller, Public and International Affairs
Traci Nelson, Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization
Robert Parker, Engineering
Louis Pingel, Education
John Prescott, Business
Jayant Rajgopal, Engineering
Evelyn Rawski, Arts and Sciences/Social Sciences
Mark Roberts, Medicine
Stephanie Sabol, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Mae Smethurst, Arts and Sciences/Humanities
Martin Weiss, Information Sciences
Pinar Yildirim, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Observers:
Barbara Repasi Heron, Associate Registrar
Stephanie Hoogendoorn, Assistant to the Provost