

University Council on Graduate Study

May 8, 2007

Minutes

3:00-5:00 p.m.

817 Cathedral of Learning

Attending: Patricia Beeson (Chair), Nicole Constable (A&S), Judith Erlen (Nursing), Eleanor Feingold (GSPH), Robert Gibbs (PHARM), Amanda Godley (Education), Barbara Repasi Heron (Registrar), John Hillier (A&S), John Horn (SOM), Gary Koeske (Social Work), Malcolm McNeil (SHRS), Robert Parker (Engineering), Jay Rajgopal (Engineering), Martin Staniland (GSPIA), Martin Weiss (SIS), Michele Colvard (Provost's Office)

Guests: Kevin Deasy (Law), Lambert McGuire (Social Work), Bruce Pitt (GSPH), Jim Peterson (GSPH), Jeff Shook (Social Work), Lu-in Wang (Law)

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

II. Program Proposal: MSW-JD Joint Degree Program

The proposed MSW-JD joint degree program focuses on a variety of areas in which social work and law converge, including child welfare, aging, health, mental health, juvenile and criminal justice, family issues, and housing. Each school has noted that their students sometimes seek both degrees independently, so a formal, joint program will ease that process and attract additional students. The program requires four years for completion with a minimum of 75 credits in the School of Law and 46 credits in the School of Social Work. Upon graduation, students will be prepared to work in a number of related fields, including direct legal services, advocacy, management or administration of social service organizations, and governmental and policy areas.

Representatives from the School of Social Work and School of Law presented information about the program to UCGS members, then answered questions. There was a question about different requirements for grade point averages from the two schools. Lu-in Wang noted that the School of Law, as a professional school, requires a 2.0 GPA to graduate rather than a 3.0. Council members asked about student interest in the program, and Jeff Shook replied that he has spoken with seven interested students thus far this year.

A Council member asked if there would be a joint admissions committee to review applicants to the program. One has not been set up yet, but the presenters noted that a joint committee would be a good idea.

Council members noted that the two schools should be cautious about how coursework is recorded on the graduate and professional transcripts to be certain that students' work is recorded appropriately and accurately.

The presenters were dismissed. After discussion, the program was approved unanimously.

III. **Revised Program Proposal: Doctor of Public Health in Environmental and Occupational Health**

This program was previously reviewed by UCGS at the February 14, 2006 meeting. The program's aim 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. The Graduate School of Public Health has responded to the clarifications requested in the document entitled "Response to University Council on Graduate Studies." A letter of support from the new Dean of Public Health is also included.

Bruce Pitt and Jim Peterson presented information to Council to try to clarify the distinction between the PhD and the DrPH. They explained that the DrPH is targeted toward individuals who wish to go into public health management and service careers, while the PhD is targeted toward individuals seeking research careers. Approximately 2/3 of the DrPH curriculum is coursework and the remainder research, while the opposite applies to the PhD.

The presenters were dismissed. After further discussion, Council decided to table a vote of the program. Council members requested further clarification about the nature of the DrPH; specifically, is it considered a research degree? If so, how does the dissertation differ between the DrPH and the PhD? If there are different expectations for the dissertation based on the degree type, Council requested that those expectations be clarified and in writing for students.

IV. **Revised Program Proposal: Certificate in Nursing Research**

This program was previously reviewed by UCGS as a Certificate in Clinical Research at the February 13, 2007 UCGS meeting. Council requested additional information on the proposal and consideration of a name change because another program exists with the name Certificate in Clinical Research. The School of Nursing provided answers to Council members' questions, and renamed the program as the Certificate in Nursing Research. There was no discussion by Council on the revised proposal. The program was approved unanimously.

V. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. Graduate Procedures Subcommittee report on updating the Regulations Governing Graduate Study

Eleanor Feingold, the subcommittee chair, provided an overview of the subcommittee's work and the changes that were made to the Regulations. Council members made a number of suggestions, including adding links to policies instead of copying the policies into the Regulations. They suggested changing wording about the issuance of visa documents by OIS. Council members also discussed the regulations for professional doctoral degrees; specifically, whether the Regulations Governing Graduate Study apply generally to both graduate and professional degrees. The Provost's Office will review University policies to determine how the regulations should be applied.

Council members also suggested that the Regulations be available only online. They suggested a PDF version of the document so it can be easily printed if desired.

B. Graduate Student Affairs report on childbirth accommodation policies (*This item was tabled for a future meeting*)

VI. Other Business

A. Update on Graduate Student Health Insurance (*This item was tabled*)

B. Report on the 2007 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring

Vice Provost Beeson thanked the members of the Mentoring Award selection committee. Four winners were chosen for the 2007 award: Kathy Blee, Nancy Day, Robert Drennan, and Noreen Garman.

C. Pittsburgh website update

The Provost's Office is nearing completion of a website about Pittsburgh, designed for recruiting graduate students and new faculty members. Schools and departments will be notified when the website is complete so they can link to the Pittsburgh page from their pages.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.