Proposal to Establish a new joint program combining the existing Master of Business Administration and Master of Social Work from the Katz Graduate School of Business and School of Social Work

The social work field as well as other human service organizations are moving from a non-profit to a for profit business model. The proposed joint program will address this need and increase strategic management and organizational development skills among its graduates. Several other top 10 social work programs have also created similar programs.

Council briefly discussed the proposed joint program. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the joint program be approved. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Subcommittee Reports

Graduate Student Affairs
Chair, Dr. Martin Weiss
Report given by Ms. Jennifer Walker

On March 15, 2016 the UCGS Student Affairs Subcommittee met. The topic of this meeting was the University-Wide GPSG Orientation event that the Office of the Provost will help to plan. Joe Kozak gave the group a brief overview of the GPSG orientation, past and future. For the past three years, the orientation was held in the O’Hara Student Center and was mainly a resource fair comprised of various offices throughout the University. It is the hope that over the next couple of years, the orientation program can be improved as well as attendance. The main topics of this discussion was as follows:

1. Part of increasing attendance is to attempt to optimize the date/time of the orientation so not to conflict with orientations being held within each school. The
group agreed that the GPSG should survey the schools to learn when their orientations are scheduled and who is their primary contact for orientation in their unit.

2. In the GPSG Climate Survey, it was discovered that several students are not aware of the GPSG. The group agreed to help market the GPSG within their schools, which will increase awareness of the GPSG as well as the university-wide orientation.

3. Joe mentioned that he would like to expand the orientation beyond a resource fair and add sessions. The group brainstormed possible sessions, though none have been finalized yet. Possibilities include: a session to welcome students and promote the GPSG itself, Library, Diversity/Inclusion, Healthy Lifestyle (mental health, physical activity, etc), Student Health Services, and ID & Transportation

Update since the meeting:
- The GPSG surveyed the schools and will be finalizing the orientation date soon, definitely before the May 17 UCGS meeting.
- Once finalized, an announcement about the Orientation will be distributed to the collected contact names and will also contain a one-page flier for schools to promote the GPSG and Orientation.
- I will be working with the new GPSG president, Justin Saver, to finalize the sessions and exact format of the event.

Graduate Procedures
Chair, Dr. Sandie Engberg
Report given by Ms. Jennifer Walker
On April 19, 2106, the UCGS Graduate Procedures subcommittee, chaired by Sandie Engberg, met. Two items were discussed, as follows:

1. Credit Hour Policy – In preparation for the Periodic Review Report (PRR) due to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in June 2017, the University is working to create an official Credit Hour Policy, which requires review and a formal vote from the UCGS as well as its undergraduate counterpart, the Provost’s Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Program (PACUP). The subcommittee reviewed a draft when it met and recommended clarification on the fourth bullet point on the first page so that it included Regulations Governing Graduate Study. Those recommendations were accepted by the PRR Compliance Committee, and they are reflected in the draft presented.

The committee discussed the draft policy and voted to recommend.

2. The committee also briefly discussed the topic raised by Ryan Mahramas from the University Registrar’s Office concerning the requirement to be active and registered in the term of graduate and the circumstances surrounding what warrants a request for an exception from the Dean. As a general statement, the group prefers to keep the policies in place as is but do recommend that a reminder be sent to the Dean’s about requests for exceptions. Such requests should be rare and include justification of the need. This topic may be revisited at a future subcommittee group.
Amanda Brodish, Data Analyst, Office of the Provost
Dr. Brodish presented the 2015 graduate placement data. The data show that schools are doing an increasingly better job tracking the placement of their graduates. The 2016 study will expand tracking to include where, geographically, students are being placed and whether placement requires the degree students were awarded. Ideas for the future include tracking placement several years after graduation and whether it would be easier to submit student-level data instead of rolling the data up to the program level.

Dr. Brodish also shared summary data from the 2015 Graduate Student Stipend Exchange Item through the AAU Data Exchange. Of the AAU universities who chose to respond, Pitt’s compensation (stipend minus tuition and health care costs) ranked as follows:
Teaching Assistants: 10/26 (would be 13th if only salary); 5 of the 9 schools ahead of us are privates
Research Assistants: 16/26 (would be 22nd if only salary); again all 5 of the privates are ahead of us
Other Assistants: 7/15 (would be 8th if only salary); 3 of the 6 schools ahead of us are privates

Ed Michaels, Director, University Counseling Center
Dr. Michaels gave a brief presentation on the University Counseling Center. He highlighted the new counseling center space and resources available to students, including one-on-one counseling, group counseling, and a crisis hotline that students can call 24 hours a day. Dr. Michael’s also shared that the Counseling Center is in the process of expanding by doubling its staff counselors to ensure shorter wait times for students.

Council approved the Minutes of the February 23, 2016 Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.