University Council on Graduate Study
April 19, 2011
Minutes
3:00-4:00 p.m.
817 CL

Attending: Catherine Bender (Nursing), Kay Brummond (A&S), Steven Carr (A&S), Nicole Constable (A&S), Valire Copeland (Social Work), Sudipta (Nila) Devanath (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly), Eleanor Feingold (Public Health), Ellice Forman (Education), Paula Grabowski (Interdisciplinary), Henry Goodelman (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly), John Horn (Medicine), Margaret Mahoney (Law), Karen Norris (Medicine), Richard Oravtez (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly), Robert Parker (Engineering), Melanie Rodrigues (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly), Alberta Sbragia (Provost’s Office and A&S, Chair), Stephanie Hoogendoorn (Provost’s Office), Patricia Mathay (Registrar’s Office)

Guests: Bopaya Bidanda (Engineering), Wes Rist (Law), Mark Roberts (Public Health)

Approval of the Minutes
The minutes of the March 15, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

Program Proposal: Change the name of the Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.S.D.) degree type to Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) submitted by the School of Law
The proposed change is motivated by the desire to avoid the confusion that has been created by an improper but common reference to the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree as a “Doctor of Jurisprudence” degree. The Office of the Registrar has confirmed that no students have graduated from Pitt with a J.S.D. degree. Further, the currently enrolled students in the J.S.D. degree program would prefer to graduate with the S.J.D. degree.

Council asked if there is any conformity across universities in the name of the degree. The presenter responded that most schools offer the S.J.D. degree and not the J.S.D. degree.

A motion was made and seconded to approve to change the name of the Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.S.D.) degree type to Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) degree type. All voted in favor of the motion.

Program Proposal: Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Systems Engineering submitted by the Swanson School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Public Health
The proposed program aims to provide students a multi-disciplinary curriculum necessary to better influence the costs, risks, utilization, distribution, and outcomes of health care services. It is initially designed for master’s students in the Department of Health Policy and Management and in the Department of Industrial Engineering. Students would receive their certificate from their respective school. The proposal requires the development of a new seminar course and a new project course.
Council asked about the availability and interest of local health organizations to engage students in capstone projects. The presenters responded that currently there are six projects that need students. Both UPMC and Mercy have expressed interest in working with students from this program. Projects will be co-advised by a faculty member from each department in order to provide a project experience that blends the two disciplines. Their faculty members are experienced at advising capstone projects as the Engineering programs currently have capstone requirement in place and Public Health’s Master of Health Administration program requires a summer internship.

Council briefly discussed the proposed program. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed Graduate Certificate program. All voted in favor of the motion.

**Announcements**
The Reception to honor the winners and nominees of the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring will be held on Tuesday, April 26 from 3 to 5 pm in the University Club in Ballroom B.

I will soon need to ask the Graduate Procedures Subcommittee to review revisions to the policy that establishes [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) for graduate students used in determining eligibility for financial aid from federal sources. These revisions will be necessary in order to be in compliance with federal regulations. I understand that these changes would be in place for fall 2011 and could first have consequences on students in summer 2012.

Note that the June meeting was re-scheduled from Tuesday, June 21, 2011 to Tuesday, June 14, 2011. We will likely have proposals to review at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.