Approval of the Minutes
The minutes of the May 17, 2011 meeting were corrected and approved.

Program Proposal: Ph.D. in Film Studies with six areas of concentration and M.A. in Film Studies from the School of Arts and Sciences
The proposed interdisciplinary programs draws on existing faculty strengths from Film Studies and the six departments which offer the areas of concentration. The proposed six areas of concentration are English, French, German Studies, Hispanic Languages and Literatures, History of Art and Architecture, and Slavic Languages and Literatures. Students must be admitted both to the proposed Film Studies program and to one of the six departments. They must complete all the requirements of the doctoral program in Film Studies and in their department. They will receive a Ph.D. in Film Studies with one of the six areas of concentration. The M.A. in Film Studies option would be available to students who do not complete the Ph.D. program.

Lucy Fischer explained that the proposed interdisciplinary program would draw upon existing curricular and faculty strengths to enable students to examine the media arts, including film, television, photography, video and digital imaging, within an international framework. Graduate students can now earn an interdisciplinary 12-credit masters or an 18-credit doctoral certificate in Film Studies. These certificates allow students pursuing an M.A. or Ph.D. degree to “add on” a Film Studies Certificate to their academic degree. This proposed program goes beyond this doctoral certificate and enables students to have a more defined emphasis on Film Studies.

Council briefly discussed the two proposed programs. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Ph.D. in Film Studies with six areas of concentration and the M.A. in Film Studies. All voted in favor of the motion.
Program Proposal: Ph.D. in Oral Biology with two areas of concentration and M.S. in Oral Biology from the School of Dental Medicine

The proposed graduate programs have been designed to cover a wide range of topics at the molecular, cellular, organismic and clinical levels and to prepare students for careers in oral health and biomedical science research and teaching. The Ph.D. program requires the completion of one of the two proposed areas of concentration, Craniofacial Tissue Engineering and Craniofacial Genetics. The M.S. program is intended to be separate from the Ph.D. program and requires a thesis. A student may complete both degrees.

The presenters explained that Dental Medicine currently has a sufficient number of faculty who can support graduate student training and of these, many have secondary appointments in other schools and are involved in training graduate students. Many faculty have external funds to support graduate student researchers. The two areas of concentrations were chosen because these are the two major research focuses in Dental Medicine.

Council discussed the proposed programs and noted a few errors that violate the University Regulations on Graduate Study. A motion was made and seconded to approve the two programs subject to revising the typographical errors. Council asked that Alberta Sbragia review and approve the revisions. All voted in favor of the motion.

Program Proposal Update: Ph.D. and M.S. in Computational Modeling and Simulation

Council briefly discussed the responses submitted in response to their feedback from the March meeting. A member asked about the reference in question three that “It is expected that all students in the program will have three or more published papers by the time of graduation.” Council agreed that professional development skills are important.

Announcements

The Office of International Services (OIS) will be hosting a welcome event for new graduate international students on the Gateway Clipper. OIS invites each school to help welcome their new international students. Members were asked to consider who would be the best representative from their school. Stephanie Hoogendoorn will follow-up on this event by email.

Our benefits representative has met with UPMC to discuss the 2011-2012 premiums for graduate students and others with eligible academic appointments to obtain medical and health care insurance. The University is looking at an increase of 4.02% over the current rates. The increase last fiscal year was just over 3.9%. The University will pay for the increase for the individual premiums. Students who elect to purchase coverage for an adult and/or dependent(s) will have to purchase coverage at the increased premium.

At the April Council meeting, we announced that our Graduate Procedures Subcommittee
would soon need to review revisions to the policy that establishes Satisfactory Academic Progress for graduate students. This policy is used to determine eligibility for financial aid from federal sources. These revisions will be necessary to be in compliance with federal regulations. In April, we reported that the changes would need to be in place for fall 2011 and could first have consequences in summer 2012. However, we have just learned that these changes will be used to evaluate the eligibility for graduate and professional students to receive federal financial aid in **fall 2011**. We will be communicating with you as the process to identify and inform these students moves forward. School will have the option to invoke an appeal as they deem necessary. For more information about the new guidelines, please see [http://www.oafa.pitt.edu/acadprog.aspx](http://www.oafa.pitt.edu/acadprog.aspx).

Dr. Sbragia thanked Council for their service this past year, especially given the large number of proposals.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. Council will meet next in fall 2011.