I. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the September 11, 2007 meeting were approved subject to typographical corrections.

II. Announcements
A. Pinar Yildirim, President of the GPSA, announced that the Graduate and Professional Student Association is partnering with the undergraduate Student Government Board to implement a mentoring program to discuss graduate school with undergraduates.

B. Nominations for the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring are due on November 21, 2007. The 2008 Guidelines are posted on the UCGS Web site.

C. The Cool Pittsburgh! Web site is live.

D. Council members were asked to send input into the types of issues about international recruiting they would like David Clubb, Director of the Office of International Services, to address at the next UCGS meeting.

III. Program Proposal: Certificate Program in Nuclear Engineering
A graduate-level certificate program will be open to all students currently enrolled in a MS program in the School of Engineering and to professionals with a baccalaureate engineering degree who are admitted to a graduate program in the School of Engineering. The purpose of the proposed certificate is to prepare students to enter the growing field of nuclear industry, particularly in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Nuclear Engineering Educational Program will form an important component of the School of Engineering’s energy and sustainability initiatives.

Minking Chyu, Larry Foulke, and Larry Shuman presented a brief overview of the
proposed program and then answered questions from UCGS members.

A council member asked why the title of the program does not include the phrase “operational safety” since this is the focus of the program. The School of Engineering would like to maintain the option of broadening the audience for the certificate in the future, so they decided not to include the phrase operational safety.

A council member asked if the certificate is open to Ph.D. students. Ph.D. students may enroll. The motivation of the program is to train post-baccalaureate students, and in particular local Westinghouse employees with baccalaureate engineering degrees are expected to provide pool of students for this program.

A council member asked how many of the nine courses associated with this program are currently developed. Two courses are currently offered. The National Research Council has awarded Engineering a $600K grant to develop additional courses. In collaboration with the Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education, Engineering will develop distance learning courses.

The representatives from the School of Engineering were excused. Council members asked that the proposal 1) clarify the admissions criteria for the graduate certificate by either including the standards or by referencing where the standards can be found and 2) specify the status (including the admission requirements) of the post-baccalaureate certificate open to a professional who is not already admitted to a MS degree program in engineering.

Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal with a provision that a revised proposal addressing their above concerns is submitted to Vice Provost Beeson.

IV. Program Proposal: Ph.D. Program in Clinical and Translational Science
Clinical and translational science is a new and emerging field of inquiry being developed so that basic science findings can be applied to early clinical research studies and ultimately to large-scale clinical trials in patients. Because the program requires a knowledge base of medicine, health care, and the healthcare delivery system, 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. This program will 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 will be housed in and administered by the School of Medicine but will involve faculty and students from all schools within the health sciences.

Nicole Fowler, Wishwa Kapoor, and Galen Switzer presented a brief overview of the proposed program and then answered questions from UCGS members.

A council member asked how this proposed program compares to existing Ph.D. programs in the School of Medicine. While the proposed program shares similarities
with other Ph.D. programs, this program is designed to train doctors to be clinical researchers.

A council member asked what knowledge base is needed for this program. Students admitted to this program will need to already have content knowledge in a specific field. For example, a cardiologist would enter this program in order to learn how to apply translational research skills to solve problems specifically in cardiology.

Council members wanted to know how this program would provide training for translational skills. The program offers multiple strands of training such as clinical trial design, biostatistics, and imagining methods. The key aspect of the training is the role of high-quality mentoring which begins within the first semester of the program and continues throughout the program.

A council member asked how many other similar training programs exist. Approximately ten or twelve programs already exist. The School of Medicine program distinguishes itself by requiring that students already have a professional doctorate degree and that each student is matched with a research mentor at the onset of the program.

A council member asked if a part-time student could complete this program. With limits to the extent of part-time, a part-time student may enter the program and should complete the program within five years. Students need to be immersed in the program in order to practice clinical research. A full-time student should complete the program in four years.

The representatives from the School of Medicine were excused and Council members continued to discuss the proposal. In particular they discussed the following issues:

- There were questions about the publication requirement for papers included in dissertations following the three paper format. Council members were concerned that requiring publication may unnecessarily delay completion of the dissertation. There was also a question of why it is necessary to require external validation as opposed to relying on our faculty judgment.
- From the discussion, it was clear that the program is open to part-time students. Council members were concerned that this will have implications for the deadlines for completing milestones and that these students must still fulfill the residency requirement.
- The language surrounding the final oral examination is unclear on the question of who can attend. By University policy the oral defense is open to the public.

Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal with a provision that a revised proposal addressing their above concerns is submitted to Vice Provost Beeson.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting of Council will take place on January 8, 2008.