University Council on Graduate Study  
November 18, 2008  
Minutes  
3:00-5:00 p.m.  
817 CL

Attending: Patricia Beeson (Chair), Pat Chew (Law), Nicole Constable (A&S), Robert Devaty (A&S), William Dunn (Public and International Affairs), Eleanor Feingold (Public Health), Amanda Godley (Education), Paula Grabowski (Interdisciplinary), Mary Elizabeth Happ (Nursing), Barbara Repasi Heron (Registrar), Donald Hoffman (Dental), Byron Kohut (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly), Robert Parker (Engineering), Louis Pingel (Education), Evelyn Rawski (A&S), Arnold Stagger (A&S Graduate Student Organization), Stephanie Hoogendoorn (Provost’s Office)

Guests: Dean John Delaney and Donald Moser from Business

Introductions
Patty Beeson asked each Council member to introduce himself or herself.

Approval of Minutes, June 17, 2008
The minutes of the June 17, 2008 meeting were approved.

2007-2008 Annual Report of UCGS
The 2007-2008 Annual Report was approved. It will be posted to the UCGS website and available to the community.

Program Proposal: Master of Science Degree Program in Accounting
The Master of Science in Accounting is a professional master’s degree proposed by the Accounting Interest Group in the Katz Graduate School of Business. This proposed program is designed to provide coursework deemed important by key accounting firms and to meet new credit requirements that are soon to be required by the Commonwealth for CPA licensure. Students who complete this proposed program will likely sit for the CPA exam.

Dean John Delaney and Don Moser attended the meeting to present the proposal and answer questions from Council members. This proposed program will provide additional benefits to the entire school. Additional faculty will be hired and students in the MBA program will have the option to take advanced accounting courses.

Council had questions regarding the Master of Science degree type, the 150 credit requirement to sit for the CPA exam, the effects of this program on the CGS certificate, possible plans for recruiting minority students, the anticipated class size, and the admission requirements. Dean Delaney and Don Moser addressed each question to Council’s satisfaction and were thus excused so Council could deliberate.

Council discussed the proposed program. A motion was made and seconded to approve the
proposed Master of Science Degree Program in Accounting, subject to the proposal being revised to:

- Articulate any grade requirements for graduation in addition to completing all required courses with an overall 3.0 GPA;
- Articulate efforts to be made to address minority recruitment; and
- Include an assessment plan consistent with University guidelines.

Council asked that Patty Beeson review and approve the revisions. All voted in favor of the motion.

Announcements

**Cool Pittsburgh Bookmarks** have been distributed to the schools. This is a recruitment piece to encourage potential graduate students to visit the Web site to learn about living in Pittsburgh.

**Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring** nominations were due Friday, November 14, 2008. Our office has received nearly 20 nominations.

**Workshop on Minority Graduate Student Recruiting** will be held on Monday, December 8 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Topics covered will include creating recruitment programs with Minority Serving Institutions, converting applicants to enrolled students, developing effective recruitment publications, and using technology to streamline the consideration process.

**National Research Council Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs**
The expected release of the methodology guide is early November. So we assume that the report with rankings will be released late December to mid-January. Patty will provide a more detailed update at our December meeting.

**Graduate Student Mental Health** is a national concern that the Student Affairs Subcommittee might want to discuss. Regular feedback provides students stability that could result in greater academic progress and in preventing mental health issues. Council might want to consider enforcing annual meetings to review progress. It may be helpful to provide workshops for Deans, faculty members, staff, and teaching assistants to address this issue and possible warning signs indicating that a student needs professional help. This topic could be worked into the existing teaching assistant workshops.

**Association of American Universities: Data Collection Recommendations**
The AAU data exchange is mandating survey questions. The Student Affairs Subcommittee will be asked to review these questions.

**Joint Degrees with International Universities**
Last year the Graduate Procedures Subcommittee reviewed joint degrees and determined that these programs may be handled as credit transfer agreements. The Council of Graduate Schools recently published its proceedings from the Banff meeting where joint degrees were discussed at length. This committee may wish to review these best practices.
Subcommittee signups: Graduate Student Affairs and Graduate Procedures. The Student Affairs Subcommittee will probably present a recommended parental leave policy at the December meeting. Sign-ups for the subcommittees will be forthcoming. In light of the discussion of the professional master’s degree types, the Graduate Procedures could consider how to best name these degrees.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting of Council will take place on December 9, 2008.