Approval of Minutes, November 18, 2008
The minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting were approved.

Announcements

Minority Student Recruitment Workshop
The Minority Student Recruitment Workshop was held on December 8, 2008. Approximately 25 staff members and 18 faculty members attended. One council member who attended thought that the content of the workshop was elementary and lacked content. Council members agreed it would be helpful to offer another recruiting workshop in fall 2009. Suggested topics include the use of technology in recruiting, how to get faculty members to market their program to faculty at other schools, best practices by University of Pittsburgh recruiters, and best practices from another university with a strong recruiting program.

Subcommittee Membership
Members were asked to sign-up for either the Student Affairs or the Graduate Procedures Subcommittee.

Student Affairs Subcommittee Report
Amanda Godley, Chair of the Student Affairs Subcommittee, presented their recommended graduate student parental accommodation policy and requested Council’s endorsement. The subcommittee has been working on this recommendation for over two academic years. The subcommittee examined data on maternity and parental leave policies for graduate students from twelve AAU public peer institutions. The recommended policy is modeled after a policy implemented by the University of Michigan. The subcommittee selected the Michigan policy because it provides academic accommodations for both funded and non-funded students. Unlike the established policies reviewed by the subcommittee, the proposed policy does require that all professional programs must either implement the university adopted policy or develop their own policy. The subcommittee feels very strongly that a graduate student parental accommodation policy should be available to both graduate and professional students.
Council members discussed the proposed policy and the accompanying cover letter. All voted in favor of the endorsing the proposed policy subject to the following revisions:

1) include a statement in the eligibility section of the policy that all funded students will get the accommodation regardless of the source of their funding
2) replace “adoptive parents” with “adoptive parents and their partners.”

**Update on National Research Council (NRC) Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs**

Patty Beeson presented an update of the NRC assessment of research-doctorate programs. In 2006-2007, data from 38 University of Pittsburgh doctoral programs was collected and submitted to the NRC. This report is due to be released in spring 2009. Patty discussed the

- goals of the project
- summary of ranking methodology (based on current knowledge)
- description of the data sheets to be released (based on current knowledge)
- information about the scheduled release (based on current knowledge)
- thoughts on a possible institutional view on assessment and the NRC report
- uses of the comparative data, especially for self-assessment.

Patty plans to hold an informational workshop for the chairs of graduate programs who submitted data to the NRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting of Council will take place on January 13, 2009.