University Council on Graduate Study  
May 15, 2012  
Minutes  
3:00-5:00 p.m.  
817 CL

Attending  
Karen Arndt (Interdisciplinary), Catherine Bender (Nursing), Stephen Carr (Arts and Sciences), Robert Devaty (Arts and Sciences), William Dunn (Public and International Affairs), Eleanor Feingold (Public Health), David Givens (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly), Michael Gunzenhauser (Education), John Horn (Medicine), Stephanie Hoogendoorn (Provost’s Office), Susan Kalisz (Arts and Sciences), Robert Parker (Engineering), Anthony Petrosky (Education), Jayant Rajgopal (Engineering), Alberta Sbragia (Provost’s Office and Arts and Sciences, Chair), Chandralekha Singh (Arts and Sciences), Elizabeth Skidmore (Health Rehabilitation), Heiko Spallek (Dental), and Martin Weiss (Information Sciences)

Guests  
Meryl Lazar and Anna Arlotta Guerrero from Education; John Mahoney from Medicine

Program Proposal: Post-baccalaureate Certificate in PreK-4 Teacher Preparation from the School of Education
The proposed program is designed to respond to changes in requirements for teacher certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education effective January 1, 2013 and will satisfy the academic requirements to be certified to teach pre-kindergarten through grade 4. The program requires students to complete 30 prerequisite academic and education credits, will take three semesters to complete, and includes student teaching experiences in both a pre-kindergarten and a kindergarten through grade 4 setting. In the third semester, two courses will be offered in an accelerated format and another course will be offered online so that students can complete a second student teaching experience. In total, six courses will be developed or re-designed. This proposed program is intended to replace the existing certificate programs in Early Childhood Education (N-3) and Elementary Education (K-6). The School is currently executing a plan to communicate these changes to current students and does plan to terminate these programs at the appropriate time. Since students will not be enrolled in a degree program, the certificate will need to obtain approval from the Department of Education in order to satisfy the new federal Gainful Employment requirements.

Council briefly discussed the proposed program. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed post-baccalaureate certificate. All members voted in favor of recommending approval of the proposal.

Approval of the Minutes
The minutes of the April 17, 2012 meeting were approved.

Proposed Modifications of University Policies Recommended by the Graduate
Procedures Subcommittee
Chair Robert Parker presented the subcommittee’s recommended revisions:

A. **Satisfactory Academic Progress** for graduate and professional students

   The proposed modifications aim to set the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements at the minimum academic requirements for graduate and professional programs. Specifically:
   - The minimum GPA is 3.0, except for the first professional degrees;
   - The maximum timeframe shall be defined as the statute of limitations. The first professional degrees will use 150% of the required courses; and
   - Regarding the appeal process, at the end of one payment period on financial aid probation, the student must meet the institution’s satisfactory academic progress standards or meet the requirements of the academic plan developed by the school. A course that a graduate or professional student might need to re-take to improve his/her GPA may not be offered until the following year.

B. **Cross-listing programs/Academic Programs (POLICY 02-01-02)**

   The proposed revision will allow cross-listed course sections to be offered across the Master Level Graduate, Doctoral Level Graduate, and First Professional Programs levels.

C. **Assessment of English Language Proficiency for Admission (POLICY 09-02-01)**

   The proposed revision adds the completion of a medical residency program at an accredited institution in the U.S. is an acceptable measure of proficiency.

   Council requested that the revision be modified to specify that the residency program be *accredited*. The Chair accepted this addition.

Council briefly discussed each proposed policy revision separately. Three motions were made and each was seconded to approve the proposed revisions. All members voted in favor of recommending approval of the policy revisions.

John Mahoney presented a request to add a grade option of S/U Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory for the School of Medicine in the following policies: **Grading System (POLICY 09-01-01) and Grading Options (09-01-03)** to better match the grading practices of other schools. Council briefly discussed the proposed policy revision. A motion was made and seconded to approve. All members voted in favor of recommending approval of the policy revision.

**Announcements**

David Givens, the incoming President of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, plans to form a Graduate Student Government Executive Committee. He is asking for members to nominate one or more students from each school to serve. The aim of this committee is to:

- work closely with Pitt’s Office of Governmental Relations and Community Relations (including sitting on those Senate Committees for GPSA)
- gain experience planning, hosting, and interacting with local and state leaders through
running GPSA and SGB’s (the undergraduate student government) expanding Pancakes and Politics series

- work to plan logistics, training, and lobbying, as well as improve student involvement, in Pitt Day in Harrisburg and Harrisburg Day at Pitt
- interact with other student leaders to represent GPSA on the city-wide Pittsburgh Student Government Council and assist with their lobbying efforts
- promote student voter registration among graduate students and initiate other drives promoting student political involvement as applicable

The Gateway Clipper Orientation for new International Students will be on August 20, 2012. We hope that one member from each school can attend to meet your students. Council requested that the date be set much farther in advance so that they can better plan for this orientation, including adding it to admission letters.

Negotiations for the health insurance premiums for the graduate student medical policy are not complete, but the anticipated rate increase for 2011-12 is around 9%. The past 2 years rate increase has been right around 4%. This rate reflects usages of the policy plus new expected federal requirements for prescription plans that are currently being ruled on by the Supreme Court.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.