University Council on Graduate Study
Report on 2011-2012 Activities

As stated in its bylaws, the University Council on Graduate Study is to communicate its decisions to the faculty, students, and administrative officers of the University. If you have comments on the activities as reported here or suggestions for agenda items, please contact Vice Provost Alberta Sbragia at 412.624.2137 or via email at sbragia@pitt.edu.

Reports Given to Council

Dr. Rush Miller, Director of the University Library System, provided an update on Open Access.

Pitt has been an active participant in Open Access publishing for more than a decade. News and resources about Open Access is available online at http://openaccess.pitt.edu, and materials from the Open Access Task Force, including their report submitted in August 2011, are available online at http://openaccess.pitt.edu/OA@Pitt.html.

Dr. Charles Nieman, Director of the Office of International Services, provided an update on the Office of International Services (OIS)

In his presentation, Dr. Nieman:
• Offered a brief introduction to OIS highlighting its unique features, scope, and organization and its connections to the International Plan Framework approved by the Provost in 2009;
• Introduced new initiatives (e.g., enhanced new international graduate student orientation, upgraded case management system, and the International Student Barometer);
• Presented briefly some strategic challenges (diversity of enrollment, embargoed countries, engagement of international alumni, integration of international and domestic students, and increasing federal compliance); and
• Extended an invitation to council members to be a deliberate partner in their strategic planning and efforts for enrolling and retaining top international graduate students and recruiting, hiring and retaining world-class international staff and faculty.

Dr. Charles Nieman provided an overview of the International Student Barometer. He presented data from a new survey tool administered to international undergraduate and graduate students at Pitt in 2011. The survey will be administered for two more years. The questionnaire covers arrival, learning, living, support, recommendation, application and choice of institution. Our results are compared against national and international benchmarks.

Review of Proposals

Graduate School of Public Health: Establish a Post-Professional Certificate in Health Systems Leadership and Management

The post-professional certificate will provide rigorous training for healthcare clinicians and providers looking to enhance their careers and improve healthcare delivery through strengthened leadership and management skills in the region. Admission would require completion of a terminal clinical degree, such as MD, OD, RN, DMD, or PharmD.
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs: Terminate one Degree Type, one Major, two Dual Degrees, and two Certificates from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

The following programs will be terminated, as it has been many years since students have enrolled in these programs.

- Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) Degree Type with an associated Major in Public and International Affairs
- Major in Public and International Affairs leading to the Master of Public Administration (MPA); includes plans MPAPIA-MPA and PIA-MPA
- Dual degree in Master of Public and International Affairs and Master of International Development
- Dual degree in Master of Public Administration and Master of International Development
- Master’s Level Certificate in Public Policy and Management
- Certificate of Advanced Study in Personnel and Labor Relations

School of Education: Establish a Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

The graduate certificate aims to provide students with theoretical instruction and clinical application to address the needs of children who are served within Special Education and Behavioral Health services. Further, the coursework will partially fulfill the requirements to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

School of Education: Establish a Post-baccalaureate Certificate in PreK-4 Teacher Preparation

The post-baccalaureate certificate aims to satisfy the academic requirements to be certified to teach pre-kindergarten through grade 4 and to respond to changes in requirements for teacher certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education effective January 1, 2013. 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.

School of Medicine: Establish Graduate and Post-Professional Certificates in Comparative Effectiveness Research

The certificate programs aim to provide students in the Schools of the Health Sciences additional training in studies directly comparing clinically plausible choices in order to expedite the translation of best therapies into practice. The Institute for Clinical Research Education will administer the program, and the School of Medicine will award the certificates.

School of Nursing: Establish a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology for Nurse Practitioners

The graduate certificate will educate nurse practitioners in the care of older adults, with an emphasis on providing a diagnostic and management component with a geriatric-focused clinical experience. In addition, the program will meet the requirements of the Consensus Model for Advanced Practice Nursing that is scheduled to be implemented by 2015. The certificate can be obtained by current or graduated students in the Family Nurse Practitioner and the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner MSN or DNP programs.
Swanson School of Engineering: Establish the Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering, a New Degree Type
The program will provide students two tracks: a professional, non-thesis option to support students who are already working or want to work in the industry; and a research-based thesis option for full-time graduate students. Students will obtain knowledge of basic systems and components and operations of a nuclear power plant, with a focus on operations and safety. The success of the School’s graduate nuclear engineering certificate program, implemented in 2008, prompted the development of these new offerings. The majority of the masters-level courses in the program will be offered as in-class and synchronous distance learning options.

Swanson School of Engineering: Establish a Post-baccalaureate, Graduate, and Post-Professional Certificates in Medical Product Innovation
The certificate programs aim to provide students with the basic competencies to effectively contribute as members of multi-disciplinary teams to accomplish the medical innovation process. This process includes medical technology ideation, development, realization, and commercialization. The graduate certificate is directed towards graduate students in Engineering, the Health Sciences, Katz, and Law who are seeking to complement their education. The post-baccalaureate certificate students will include holders of a BS, MS, or PhD who are currently working in a health care-related field or who are seeking to become employed in a health care-related field. The post-professional certificate students will include practicing physicians or lawyers who are interested in obtaining advanced knowledge of engineering, business, and law-related aspects of medical product innovation.

Swanson School of Engineering: Terminate the Certificate of Advanced Study in Clinical Cardiovascular Engineering and the Certificate of Advanced Study in Rehabilitation Engineering
The last student to graduate from one of these programs did so in 2004 and resources associated with these programs have been redistributed to other areas.

Issues Discussed

Modifications of University Policies Reviewed by the Graduate Procedures Subcommittee and Recommended by Council

- [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) for graduate and professional school students
- [UNIVERSITY OF PITTSPBURGH POLICY 02-01-02](#): cross-listing courses section
- [UNIVERSITY OF PITTSPBURGH POLICY 09-02-01](#): Assessment of English Language Proficiency for Admission.
- [UNIVERSITY OF PITTSPBURGH POLICY 09-01-01](#): University System and [UNIVERSITY OF PITTSPBURGH POLICY 09-01-03](#): University Grading

Documents and Websites Available to the University Community


Regulations Governing Graduate Study at the University of Pittsburgh, University Council on Graduate Study, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/regtoc.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/regtoc.html)

Online Graduate and Professional Bulletin, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.bulletins.pitt.edu/graduate/index.html](http://www.bulletins.pitt.edu/graduate/index.html)

Graduate Student Parental Accommodation Guidelines, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/Grad_Parental_Accommodation_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/Grad_Parental_Accommodation_Guidelines.pdf)

Policy Statement for Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, and Graduate Student Assistants, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/TATFGSAPolicyStatement.pdf](http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/TATFGSAPolicyStatement.pdf)

Policy Statement for Graduate Student Researchers, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/GSRPolicyStatement.pdf](http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/GSRPolicyStatement.pdf)

Elements of Good Academic Advising, University Council on Graduate Study, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/advising.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/advising.html)

The Guide to Graduate and Professional Programs, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. [https://www.pitt.edu/Graduate/](https://www.pitt.edu/Graduate/)

Graduate Faculty Membership Roster, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. Updated three times a year at [http://www.ir.pitt.edu/gradfac/homepg.htm](http://www.ir.pitt.edu/gradfac/homepg.htm)

Choosing A Dissertation Advisor, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/advisor.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/advisor.html)

Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring Guidelines, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/maguidelines.pdf](http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/maguidelines.pdf)

Cool Pittsburgh, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.coolpgh.pitt.edu/](http://www.coolpgh.pitt.edu/)

Format Guidelines for Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Preparation at the University of Pittsburgh, Office of the Provost, University of Pittsburgh. [http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/etd/pdf/ETDformat.pdf](http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/etd/pdf/ETDformat.pdf)

Thesis and Dissertation Word Templates (Revised 2005) [http://www.library.pitt.edu/etd_tutorials/support/ETD_Template.doc](http://www.library.pitt.edu/etd_tutorials/support/ETD_Template.doc)

ETD LaTeX Template. [http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/etd/latexdl.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~graduate/etd/latexdl.html)
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**Graduate Student Affairs:** Chair, Valerie Copeland

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