University Council on Graduate Study
Report on 2013-2014 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

Graduate Application Tracking System (GATS) Demonstration – March 18, 2014
Bruce A. Lindvall, Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies
McCormick School of Engineering, Northwestern University

Alan Wolff, Director of Information Resources,
McCormick School of Engineering, Northwestern University

Brian Vidic, Director of Technology
John A. Swanson School of Engineering

Updates from the Office of the University Registrar – April 29, 2014
Ryan Mahramas, Associate University Registrar for Student Services
Office of the University Registrar

Travis Wisor, Senior Associate University Registrar
Office of the University Registrar

Updates from the Office of Veterans Services – May 20, 2014
Ryan Ahl, Director
Office of Veterans Services

Discussion of Placement Data – May 20, 2014
Amanda Brodish, Data Analyst
Office of the Provost

Review of Proposals

Katz Graduate School of Business and the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences: terminate a MBA/Master of Arts Joint Degree Program
This program has been inactive for nearly ten years.

Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences: terminate the cooperative program in religion and the religious studies graduate program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree and the Master of Arts degree, respectively
Current master’s students will have until spring 2016 to complete their degree requirements, and doctoral students will have until spring 2022 to complete their degree requirements.

**Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences: suspend admissions to the major in classics leading to the Masters of Arts degree and the Doctor of Philosophy degree**
The Dietrich School will submit a new proposal to either lift the suspension or to terminate the degree programs by May 1, 2018.

**Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences: suspend admissions to the major in German leading to the Masters of Arts degree and the Doctor of Philosophy degree**
The Dietrich School will submit a new proposal to either lift the suspension or to terminate the degree programs by May 1, 2016.

**John A. Swanson School of Engineering: establish graduate and post-baccalaureate certificates in safety engineering**
The certificates are designed to provide working engineers training in safety engineering that will enable them to understand, characterize, quantify, and fix the complex hazards of a dynamic industrial process. Furthermore, the program allows students to combine safety engineering core courses with other engineering courses that may be closely aligned with their individual industry interests, including mining and nuclear engineering. The majority of the masters-level courses in the program will be offered as in-class and synchronous distance learning options.

**Graduate School of Public Health: establish a major in health services research and policy leading to a Master of Science degree**
The major is in response to a growing need for public health researchers who focus on cost, access, and quality of the health care system. The major aims to prepare students to conduct research on policy issues affecting the organization, financing, and delivery of health care and public health services.

**Graduate School of Public and International Affairs: establish a major and minor in governance and international public management leading to the Master of Public Administration and the Master of International Development degrees**
The major and minor aim to provide a curriculum that is focused on issues of public policy, and management and governance from a distinctively global perspective. The programs were created in response to the evolving interests of faculty and students.

**Graduate School of Public and International Affairs: rename the major and minor in urban and regional affairs as the major and minor in urban affairs and planning leading to the Master of Public Administration and the Master of International Development degrees**
The name change will better explain the existing program and will aid in increasing interest in the major. The major was previously offered leading only to the Master of Public Administration degree and will now also be offered within the Master of International Development degree. The addition of the programs to the Master of International Development degree is an effort by the School to share major fields among their degree types as a strategy to rationalize and integrate their curriculum.
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs: offer existing major and minor in energy and environment as leading to the Master of International Development degree
The major and minor are currently offered in the Master of Public Administration degree. The addition of the major and minor to the Master of International Development degree is an effort by the School to share major fields among their degree types as a strategy to rationalize and integrate their curriculum.

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs: terminate the major and minor in development planning and environmental sustainability leading to the Master of International Development degree
This major and minor are no longer needed. Updated curriculum in this area is offered through the new programs in energy and environment as well as the modified urban affairs and planning programs.

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences: establish a major in occupational therapy leading to the Clinical Science Doctorate degree and establish six areas of concentration within that major entitled pediatric practice, geriatric practice, musculoskeletal practice, neurological practice, clinical education, and professional leadership
The new major and areas of concentration were established in response to a growing need for advanced practitioners in occupational therapy due to rapid growth in the profession and to changing demands in the health care system. The program is designated a professional doctorate degree program.

School of Information Sciences: establish graduate and post-baccalaureate certificates in security assured information systems and offer a distance learning option within these certificate programs
The new certificates aim to provide a program focused on theory and practice of developing secure and highly assured information systems and networks. The rapid development of internet-based technologies and society’s increasing reliance on these systems, coupled with the threat of malicious attacks, have raised the importance of new knowledge, professional skills, and human resources in this area. The curriculum has been certified by the Committee on National Security Systems as meeting the national standards for information security education.

School of Law: establish an area of concentration in intellectual property and innovation law within the Juris Doctor degree
The area of concentration is intended to replace the existing certificate in intellectual property and technology law and is in response to strong student interest in intellectual property law and related areas such as technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The program aims to give students greater flexibility in balancing their interest in this specific area of study with the required curriculum and necessary bar exam preparation.

School of Law: terminate the certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law
The last registration for the certificate would be fall 2016 to allow students who are currently applying to the Law School enough time to apply. These current students would then have until 2017-2018 to complete the certificate.
School of Social Work: establish a graduate certificate in integrated health care
The certificate will be available to MSW students and aims to provide specialized skills and knowledge in order to work with individuals, families, groups, and communities in a variety of institutional and community-based health-related settings.

Issues Discussed

POLICY 09-04-02 for Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress
Pitt is in compliance with federal regulations for the renewal of all federal student loans provided to graduate and undergraduate students. However, the current version of the policy that describes this process, policy 09-04-02, is not in-line with the federal regulations that were effective for federal loan renewals for the fall 2011 term. The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (OAFA) manages this process, including ensuring that Pitt is in compliance with federal regulations. Council reviewed the modifications suggested by OAFA and were supportive, subject to the addition of the following sentence: “This policy does not override the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements in place for individual academic programs.”

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).


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/).
2013-2014 UCGS Members

Karen Arndt, Interschool Programs
Catherine Bender, School of Nursing
Ljudmila Bilkic, Graduate and Professional Student Government/German
Kathleen Blee, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences/At-Large
Vivian Curran, School of Law
Mahmoud El Nokali, John A. Swanson School of Engineering
Eleanor Feingold, Graduate School of Public Health
Dennis Galletta, Katz Graduate School of Business
David Gau, Graduate and Professional Student Government
David Givens, Graduate and Professional Student Government/Religious Studies
Stephanie Hoogendoorn, Office of the Provost, Observer
John Horn, School of Medicine
Michael Lipschultz, Graduate and Professional Student Government/Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization
John Markoff, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences/Social Sciences
Thomas Marré, Graduate and Professional Student Government/Philosophy
Lindsay Clare Matsumura, School of Education
Tara Meyer, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences/Natural Sciences
Christina Newhill, School of Social Work
Karen Ann Norris, School of Medicine
Anthony Petrosky, School of Education
Jayant Rajgopal, John A. Swanson School of Engineering
Linda Rinaman, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences/At-Large
Lisa Rohan, School of Pharmacy
Alberta Sbragia, Chair, Office of the Provost, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
John Scanlon, Graduate and Professional Student Government/Classics
Elizabeth Skidmore, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Heiko Spallek, School of Dental Medicine
Martin Staniland, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Michael Thompson, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences/Humanities
Martin Weiss, School of Information Sciences
Travis Wisor, Office of the University Registrar, Observer