Provost's Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Programs
January 21, 2025, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., 817 Cathedral of Learning
Minutes

Members Attending
Mercy Akanmu (Pittsburgh Campus – SGB – Student), Betty Braxter (SON), Mary Besterfield-Sacre (SSOE), Nicole Cecchini (SEPC), Lorraine Denman (Dietrich – Humanities), Dawn Drahnak (UPJ), William Garrison (SCI), Deborah Good (CBA), Adriana Helbig (Dietrich School – CGS), Jonathan Helm (Office of the University Registrar), Paula Janikowski (OTP – Staff), Toya Jones (SSW), Kathy Kelly (SHRS), Adam Lee (OTP – Chair), Michelle Sobolak (SOE), Belkys Torres (OTP), Tessa Twyman (UPJ – Student), Liann Tsoukas (Dietrich – Social Sciences), Don Ulin (UPB/UPT), Kelly Wagner (DenMed), Ada Youk (SPH)

Members Absent
Brian Batell (Dietrich – Natural Sciences), Luke Condra (GSPIA), Nicola Foote (Frederick Honors College), Martha Koehler (UPG) Matthew Miscio (UPG – Student), Camren Price (UPB/UPT – Student), Denise Schiff (Pharm),

Substitutes
David Hornyak (for Nicola Foote – Frederick Honors College), Erica Owen (for Luke Condra (GSPIA)

Guests
Andrew Lotz, Department of Political Science – Teaching Professor/Academic Advisor/Director of Undergraduate Studies and Dietrich Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies attended the meeting to give a brief overview of the proposal to terminate the major in Political Science leading to the Bachelor of Science degree and to answer questions from PACUP.

1. **Announcements/Discussion Points/Updates**

   a. December 17, 2024, Minutes Review/Approval
   b. Update on PACUP Actions from Academic Year (2024-2025) Adam Lee noted that the proposal from the May 21, 2024 meeting from Pitt-Bradford and SHRS to establish a major in Emergency Medicine leading to the Bachelor of Science degree to be offered in a hybrid format at Pitt-Bradford was approved by Provost McCarthy. The program will have a Fall 2025 roll out.

2. **Academic Planning Proposal Review**

   a. Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences: terminate the major in Political Science leading to the Bachelor of Science degree

   Andrew Lotz noted:

- The major in Political Science leading to the Bachelor of Science degree was originally launched over 10 years ago from a professor in the department who is no longer in the department – George Kraus.
- The Political Science – BS has only been awarded to two students.
- No students are currently enrolled in the program.
- The courses that are part of the PS - BS are not included in other instruction within the department (and are no longer offered).
- The Frederick Honors College offers the BPhil program that provides similar opportunities to engage in research and provides a lot of funding sources and people who can serve on the committee for students.
- Several years ago, the department of Political Science collaborated with the School of Computing and Information to build the Computational Social Science major – using courses in Political Science and leading to the Bachelor of Science degree. At that time, the department voted on terminating the PS-BS and approved the action, however, the paperwork was not submitted to do so. Now, Andrew is doing the housekeeping to have to major terminated.
- The standard in PS is a Bachelor of Arts degree and the department does still offer a PS-BA. Otherwise, if a student requests a BS, they are either offered the CSS-BS or directed to the FHC for a PS-BPhil.

PACUP was supportive.

3. **Academic Policy Review**
   a. Academic Probation/Suspension/Dismissal (Now Academic Standing)
      i. [Current Policy](#)
      ii. New version of policy included in email to PACUP

   b. Revisions made in response to four areas of concern from last PACUP discussion
      i. Alignment of timelines with accreditation requirements
      ii. Expedited timelines for students in exceptional circumstances
      iii. Self-contained glossary of (new) terminology and the progression through the levels of academic standing
      iv. Clarifications regarding Academic Program Change and its relationship to Academic Leave

   c. Discussion
      i. Clarification of Academic Dismissal appeals process: Appeal to OTP occurs after the path within the school/campus has been exhausted
      ii. Detailed discussion of terminology; ultimately no changes were suggested
      iii. Differentiation of policy and procedure with respect to Academic Improvement Plans
      iv. Clarification of grammatical issues that could cloud interpretation