

University Council on Graduate Study Report on 2021-2022 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 Amanda Godley at vpgodley@pitt.edu.

Reports Given to Council

Graduate & Professional Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - January 11, 2022

Presenter: Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

Dr. Godley shared a variety of public-facing data across the University focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

New Graduate Admissions System: Liaison - January 11, 2022

Presenter: Jennifer Walker, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost

The Office of the Provost – Graduate Studies and Pitt IT is currently implementing a new graduate admissions system. The centralized application system (CAS) is offered by Liaison and includes gradCAS and BusinessCAS. The Swanson School of Engineering recently adopted EngineeringCAS and several of disciplines also use a CAS system offered through their National Societies. A CAS system will provide more exposure for Pitt Graduate Programs to applicants as well as streamline graduate data to aid in the efforts to increase graduate enrollment at Pitt.

OTP- Graduate Studies Strategic Plan - April 12, 2022

Presenter: Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

Review of Guidelines and Policy

Graduate Student Researcher Policy - November 9, 2021

Presenter: Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

The overarching goal of updating the policy is to better align the GSR policy with that of the GSA/TA/TF policy and include clarification in needed areas. Significant changes include gender inclusive pronouns, minimum number of break days for GSRs and clearer expectations about research duties during University holidays, adding a “serious illness or incapacitation” statement, removal of the requirement for summertime enrollment on 8 or 12-month appointments, and clearer evaluation and appeal processes. A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval as provided in the meeting material with comments.

Graduate Student Assistant/Teaching Assistant/Teaching Fellow Policy - November 9, 2021

Presenter: Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

The overarching goal of updating the policy is to better align the GSA/TA/TF policy with that of the GSR policy and include clarification in needed areas. Significant changes include gender

inclusive pronouns, minimum number of break days for GSRs and clearer expectations about research duties during University holidays, adding a “serious illness or incapacitation” statement, removal of the requirement for summertime enrollment on 8 or 12-month appointments, and clearer evaluation and appeal processes. A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval as provided in the meeting material with comments.

Graduate Student Parental Accommodation - October 12, 2022 and November 9, 2021.

Presenter: Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

The graduate student parental accommodation guidelines have not been updated since they were originally approved in 2010. They were reviewed initially by Council at the October 2021 and updates were made based on that discussion. Updates proposed include: 1) change “birth mother” to “birth parent,” 2) extend to part-time students, 3) for cases in which both parents are Pitt students, allow sequential accommodation periods, 4) add “we encourage faculty to continue to be accommodating once student returns,” and 5) increase the length of leave from 6 weeks to 8 weeks for all parents (birth parent, other parent, adoptive parents). A motion was made and seconded to recommend the revisions to the accommodation policy as presented by Vice Provost Godley.

Certificate of English Language Fluency for Teaching Minor revisions to the Certification of English Fluency for Teaching policy (02-02-16) - December 7, 2021

Presenter: Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

were presented to UCGS with proposed changes that will clarify the language specific to graduate students appointed as either a Teaching Assistant (TA) or Teaching Fellow (TF). A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval as provided in the meeting material with minor changes. A motion was made and supported the clarification.

Review of Proposals

Proposal to terminate the Master of Occupational Therapy degree type within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences proposed to terminate the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree type. The field, both regionally and nationally, is transitioning to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy, which was approved at Pitt in 2016. All students enrolled in the MOT graduated in June 2021. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost and Chancellor that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to establish 5 micro-credentials within the School of Law: 1) Cyber Law & IT, 2) Energy and Environmental Law, 3) Human Rights Law, 4) Intellectual Property Law, and 5) Tax Law. The School of Law proposed to establish five new micro-credentials: 1) Cyber Law & IT, 2) Energy and Environmental Law, 3) Human Rights Law, 4) Intellectual Property Law, and 5) Tax Law. Each micro-credential will require 9 credits and will be offered in-person. Each of the 5 proposed micro-credentials have shown the most interest among prospective students. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to establish a graduate online certificate in Corporate Compliance within School of Law. The School of Law proposed to establish a new graduate online certificate in Corporate Compliance. Market research done with the help of the University Center for Teaching & Learning shows that Corporate Compliance is a rapidly growing field in the US federal government as well as Corporations across the country. The program will offer 15-credits asynchronous online to be taken sequentially over the course of one year. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to reorganize the academic structure within the Master's degree programs in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs proposed a reorganization among its master's programs. The change will transition current majors to areas of concentration within newly established majors. The School believes that this change will better reflect the master's programs and will align them with peer institutions. Discussion among council was supportive, but a suggestion was made to check if/what impact the reorg will have on currently established joint programs. This suggestion should not prevent the reorg from being approved. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

- **Terminate five existing majors:** 1. Energy and Environment 2. Governance and International Public Management 3. Human Security 4. Nongovernmental Organizations and Civil Society 5. Social Policy and 6. Urban Affairs and Planning leading to the Master of International Development (MID) degree.
- **Establish a new major in International Development leading to Master of International Development degree AND establish 5 new ARCOs in:** 1. Energy and Environment 2. Governance and International Public Management 3. Human Security 4. Nongovernmental Organizations and Civil Society 5. Social Policy and 6. Urban Affairs and Planning
- **Terminate three existing majors:** 1. Human security 2. Security and Intelligence Studies and 3. International Political Economy leading to the Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA) degree
- **Establish a new major in Public and International Affairs leading to Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA) degree AND ESTABLISH 3 new ARCOs in:** 1. Human security 2. Security and Intelligence Studies and 3. International Political Economy)
- **Terminate six existing majors:** 1. Energy and Environment 2. Governance and International Public Management 3. Policy Research & Analysis 4. Public & nonprofit Management 5. Social Policy and 6. Urban Affairs & Planning leading to the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree
- **Establish a new major in Public Administration leading to Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree AND ESTABLISH 6 new ARCOs in:** 1. Energy and Environment 2. Governance and International Public Management 3. Policy Research & Analysis 4. Public & nonprofit Management 5. Social Policy and 6. Urban Affairs & Planning

Proposal to establish a graduate Online Certificate in Sports, Entertainment and Arts Law (SEAL) in the School of Law. The School of Law proposed to establish a new online graduate

certificate in sports, entertainment, and arts law. The new program will aim to train mid-career, non-lawyer professionals, who are working in the sports and entertainment fields to educate them on navigating basic legal questions and determining when it is best to contact a lawyer. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to establish a graduate micro-credential in International Arbitration in the School of Law. The School of Law proposed to establish a graduate micro-credential in International Arbitration. The new program will include specific courses on how to structure international transactions to prepare for arbitration, the practice and theory of international arbitration, and substantive international law related to state-to-state and investor-state arbitration. The micro-credential will specifically support L.L.M. students whose employers or home countries expect that students pursue a specialized L.L.M. with a focus on subjects relating to the settlement of disputes outside of national courts and before arbitral fora. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to establish an online graduate certificate in Critical Technology and Digital Media for Learning in the School of Education. The School of Education proposed to establish a new online graduate certificate in Critical Technology and Digital Media for Learning. The new program will aim to create learning opportunities that support critical inquiry around the production, design, and integration of technology and digital media in multidisciplinary settings and equip students with knowledge about online pedagogies to design online and hybrid course materials. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to terminate Educational Supervision, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Certificate in the School of Education. The School of Education proposes to terminate the Educational Supervision, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Certificate. Due to low enrollments in the Certificate program in the last five years the SOE would like to make programmatic changes that reallocate the budget to essential programs that better align with our new mission/vision; thus, a decision was made to terminate the Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction certificate program. External influences are justifying this program termination as school districts are reallocating their scarce funds, especially in rural areas and small districts, away from school/district supervisors to other essential personnel. This phenomenon requires the SOE to look closely at programs that do not generate income and do not serve the local, regional, and national communities. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to establish Practical Business Law Online Graduate Certificate in the School of Law. The School of Law proposes to establish the Practical Business Law Online Graduate Certificate. The Certificate fills an important generalist niche by covering the basic areas of business law that are of the most value to those looking for additional legal education and knowledge, but do not want to seek a JD. This certificate will cover key foundational topics in business law and will enhance each student's ability to problem-solve and communicate effectively orally and in writing. Like other online Law Certificates, the Practical Business Law Online Graduate Certificate will consist of five 8-week long courses taught in order that cover areas such as business and tax law; technology and commercial law; litigation and dispute

resolution; regulatory law; and human resources law. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to establish and modify Certificates and Micro-Credentials in the Katz Graduate School of Business. The Katz Graduate School of Business proposes to establish and modify Micro-Credentials and Certificates that are designed to replace the MBA Concentrations and MBA Certificates and to meet the demands of graduate students who seek broad business knowledge and/or in-depth specialization in a business area. The proposed changes and additions are consistent with an overall school strategy to offer stackable and flexible credentials to both non-degree and degree-seeking graduate students interested in gaining business knowledge and skills. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to establish 6 Certificates in the School of Social Work. The School of Social Work proposes to establish six new certificates under the two Master of Social Work specializations, 1) Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA): COSA Community Organizing and Practice Certificate, COSA Gerontology Certificate, and COSA Human Services Management Certificate; and 2) Direct Practice (DP): DP Children, Youth and Families Certificate, DP Home and School Visitor/School Social Work Certificate, and DP Mental Health Certificate. The proposed certificates will enhance learning experiences and career opportunities through specialized course work that focuses on the unique and important skills needed by today's professional social workers to advance community change to address a range of current social issues. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to terminate an ARCO and establish 4 majors in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences proposes to terminate the Master of Science area of concentration Health and Rehabilitation and establish 4 majors in the Master of Science degree program: Musculoskeletal, Neuromuscular, Sports Medicine and Sports Science. The change from areas of concentration to majors is an administrative change based upon how the programs are structured in Peoplesoft that will accurately reflect the existing structure of the programs. Upon graduation, students will receive a Master of Science in Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy, Neuromuscular Physical Therapy, Sports Medicine or Sports Science.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to establish an online Master of Science in Nursing, School Nursing major. The School of Nursing proposes to establish a major, School Nursing, in the Master of Science in Nursing degree program. The 33-credit degree program will enhance curriculum through establishing an innovative online program that is a continuation of the online School Nurse Pre-K Certificate. This program will include evidence-based practice, compassionate care, communication, clinical judgement, diversity, public policy ethics and determinants of health. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Proposal to establish an online Master of Science in PharmacoAnalytics major. The School of Pharmacy proposes to establish a major, PharmacoAnalytics, in the Master of Science degree

program. The 30-credit program will provide students with the tools and knowledge necessary to analyze trends from large data sets and then interpret these trends in a way that allows them to improve their daily practice. Students will be competent with identifying big data sources, managing data, using various data analytic techniques from experience with statistical and analytics software to apply towards decision-making processes in the pharmacy field, including drug development, drug pricing and acquisition, and patient care outcomes. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved.

Subcommittees

NA

Documents and Websites Available to the University Community

[Student Diversity Dashboard](#)

Climate/Inclusion Initiatives

[A&S Doctoral Program Statistics](#)

[SOM Graduate Data Dashboard](#)

2021-2022 UCGS Members

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Jonathan Woon | Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences |
| Morgan Pierce | Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences |
| Pernille Roege | Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences |
| Robert Clift | Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences |
| Claire Guth | Graduate School of Public and International Affairs |
| Erica Owen | Graduate School of Public and International Affairs |
| Anthony Winfield | Katz Graduate School of Business |
| Dennis Galletta | Katz Graduate School of Business |
| Sara Moeller | Katz Graduate School of Business |
| Amanda Godley | Office of the Provost, Chairperson |
| Jennifer Walker | Office of the Provost, Staff |
| Jonathan Helm | Office of the Registrar, Observer |
| Julia Reese | School of Computing and Information |
| Prashant Krishnamurthy | School of Computing and Information |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Christine Wankiiri-Hale | School of Dental Medicine |
| Nadine Robert | School of Dental Medicine |
| Jenay Willis | School of Education |
| Linda DeAngelo | School of Education |
| Michael Gunzenhauser | School of Education |
| Bharath Chandrasekaran | School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences |
| G. Kelley Fitzgerald | School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences |
| Madelyn Czekalski | School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences |
| Michael Dickey | School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences |
| Michelle Schein | School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences |
| Michael Zula | School of Law |
| Vivian Curran | School of Law |
| John Horn | School of Medicine |
| Rithika Behera | School of Medicine |
| Robin Lee | School of Medicine |
| Wendy Mars | School of Medicine |
| Elizabeth Schlenk | School of Nursing |
| Xiaojun Shi | School of Nursing |
| Kerry Empey | School of Pharmacy |
| Madeline Kreider | School of Pharmacy |
| Ada Youk | School of Public Health |
| Jessica Burke | School of Public Health |
| Michelle Nguyen | School of Public Health |
| Helen Petracchi | School of Social Work |
| Kathryn Luk | School of Social Work |
| Bob Parker | Swanson School of Engineering |
| Bryan Brown | Swanson School of Engineering |
| Jung-Kun Lee | Swanson School of Engineering |
| Zeke Villarreal | Swanson School of Engineering |