



**University Council on Graduate Study Minutes
Wednesday, September 12, 2023**

The minutes from the May 2023 meeting were approved (22 in favor; 6 abstention).

Presentation

Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, Office of the Provost welcomed everyone to the hybrid meeting and facilitated a school-level faculty and student representative meet and greet.

Dr. Godley oriented all UCGS members to the [UCGS Policy AC 70](#). She highlighted that UCGS members are an advisory committee to the Provost to ensure that our graduate and professional programs are high quality and adhere to academic regulations at Pitt. UCGS members should consider how academic programs will attract students and provide value.

Dr. Godley reviewed the goals for the upcoming year. Every UCGS member will serve on a subcommittee that is updating and revising existing academic regulations and policies that are out of date, unclear or misaligned with current practice. The subcommittees are expected to conclude by December 2023 after submitting recommendations to the Provost Office.

Dr. Godley provided an overview of national and University of Pittsburgh graduate data and trends that included enrollment for professional and master's degree programs, online learning, international students, diversity, testing and rankings.

Review of Academic Policy and Regulation

Proposal to remove two outdated 1993 policies on GSR/GSA/TA/TF that is included in the 2022 academic regulations for [GSRs](#) and for [GSA/TA/TFs](#):

- Scholarship Criteria
- Awarding Procedures

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the two policies be removed. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (37 in favor).

Academic Planning Proposals

Proposal to establish a Certificate in Hearing and Vision Sciences in the School of Medicine



The certificate is designed to train the next generation of hearing and vision researchers both in basic and translational research. This goal will be accomplished by offering additional coursework and opportunities for collaborative research and mentorship with basic and translational researchers. The certificate will be available to students who are pursuing a doctoral degree in any relevant graduate program at the University of Pittsburgh. This program will attract and train top graduate students and leverage the strengths of our world-class hearing and vision sciences programs. As such, this program will train new graduate students, serve the needs of faculty, and further promote the highly collaborative academic research environment that is a hallmark of the School of Medicine and university.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (26 in favor and 6 abstentions).

Proposal to modify the Master of Science in Genetic Counseling in the School of Public Health

The School of Public Health is proposing several curricular changes to the program to ensure that students and faculty are receiving credit for required courses and to add a requirement for a new course that will help facilitate the development of the student’s thesis project. The program description and major components will not change. The proposed curricular changes will lead to an overall credit increase from 38 credits to 45 credits.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the proposal be approved. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval to the Provost (27 in favor, 1 against and 4 abstentions).

Attendance

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Robert	Clift	Grad Faculty
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Robert	Marshall	Grad Student
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Pernille	Roeger	Grad Faculty
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Jonathan	Woon	Grad Faculty
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Michaela	Cushing Daniels	Grad Student
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Erica	Owen	Grad Faculty
Katz Graduate School of Business	Abdoulai	Jobe	Grad Student
Katz Graduate School of Business	Dennis	Galletta	Grad Faculty
Katz Graduate School of Business	Rebecca	Badawy	Grad Faculty
Office of the Provost	Amanda	Godley	Chair
Office of the Provost	Shannon	Mischler	Staff



Office of the Registrar, Observer	Jonathan	Helm	Staff
School of Computing and Information	James	Joshi	Grad Faculty
School of Computing and Information	Sai	Vivek Chava	Grad Student
School of Dental Medicine	Nadine	Robert	Grad Student
School of Dental Medicine	Christine	Wankiiri-Hale	Grad Faculty
School of Education	Michael	Gunzenhauser	Grad Faculty
School of Education	Linda	DeAngelo	Grad Faculty
School of Education	Gerard	Dorve-Lewis	Grad Student
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Mark	DeRuiter	Grad Faculty
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Michael	Dickey	Grad Faculty
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Ketki	Raina	Grad Faculty
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Kayla	Scoggin	Grad Student
School of Law	Chelsea	Beaulieu	Grad Student
School of Law	Ben	Bratman	Grad Faculty
School of Medicine	Brooke	Dresden	Grad Student
School of Medicine	Saleem	Khan	Grad Faculty
School of Medicine	Robin	Lee	Grad Faculty
School of Medicine	Wendy	Mars	Grad Faculty
School of Nursing	Susan	Grayson	Grad Student
School of Pharmacy	Jacob	Cuylar	Grad Student
School of Pharmacy	Kerry	Empey	Grad Faculty
School of Public Health	Jessica	Burke	Grad Faculty
School of Public Health	Vijayasri	Hari	Grad Student
School of Public Health	Ada	Youk	Grad Faculty
School of Social Work	Hyun	Jin Lee	Grad Student
School of Social Work	Helen	Petracchi	Grad Faculty
SEPC	Michelle	Schein	Grad Faculty
Swanson School of Engineering	Bryan	Brown	Grad Faculty
Swanson School of Engineering	Soumalya	Ghosh	Grad Student
Swanson School of Engineering	Jung-Kun	Lee	Grad Faculty
Swanson School of Engineering	Bob	Parker	Grad Faculty

Presenters:

School of Medicine: Thanos Tzounopoulos

School of Public Health: Jodie Vento, Eleanor Feingold