

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

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Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Council Minutes from the January 13, 2015 Meeting

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp (Vice Chair), Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Kathleen Blee, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Professors Daniel Balderston, Don Bialostosky, Kay Brummond, Carol Colby, Michael Goodhart, Kathleen Musante, Jeffrey Newman, Lara Putnam, and Ivan Yotov, Lecturers Angela Athanas, Gretchen Bender, and Katherine Wolfe, and Graduate Student Representative David Bisaha

Not in Attendance: Professors David Bartholomae, Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski, and Lisa Brush (on leave), and Graduate Student Representative Jessica Walker

1. Minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2014

Dean Cooper presented a draft of the minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2014. The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as amended.

2. Dean's Report (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that Professor and Chair Lara Putnam (History) was elected Vice President/President Elect of the Conference on Latin American History (CLAH) of the American Historical Association. Professor and Chair Sandra Mitchell (History and Philosophy of Science) was elected President of the Philosophy of Science Association. Assistant Professor Daniel Bain (Geology and Planetary Science) published a paper in the *Journal of American Water Resources Association* for his work on the Nine Mile Run project here in Pittsburgh.

3. Report from Dietrich School Undergraduate Council (Associate Dean John Twyning)

Associate Dean John Twyning stated that Undergraduate Council had not met since the December 9, 2014 Dietrich School Council meeting and does not have any new updates to report at this time.

4. Report from Dietrich School Graduate Council (Associate Dean Kathleen Blee)

Associate Dean Kathleen Blee reported that Graduate Council had not met since the December 9, 2014 Dietrich School Council meeting. She did share that Graduate Council members are currently preparing reviews of TA/TF training practices and procedures in the departments of Economics, Political Science, and Sociology. Dean Cooper stated that he will invite Chairs to an informational meeting related to SERU data where the concerns expressed regarding graduate teaching assistants in the School will be discussed.

5. Child Protection (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that the amendments to the Pennsylvania Child Protection Law extend standards of legal clearance that exist for elementary and high schools to all private and public universities. Starting January 1, 2015, all new hired faculty were required to initiate the clearance processes and sign a disclosure statement. Clearances are now housed in Human Resources in a centralized database. All future offer letters will include a clause stating that the pending offer is conditional upon obtaining the appropriate clearances. Associate Dean Blee is beginning conversations regarding how clearances are obtained for graduate students, including international students.

6. IP Assignment (Dean N. John Cooper)

Dean Cooper reported that almost everyone in the sponsored research environment signed one of the three options presented to them. Some of the science faculty selected Option 3. The University will not submit proposals to federal funding agencies on behalf of faculty unless PI IP assignments are on file. Verifying

existence of IP assignments will be a School level responsibility for the immediate future.

7. Set Dates and Agenda Items for Full Faculty Meeting (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean presented to Council three dates as options for the Spring Full Faculty Meeting and it was decided that the meeting shall be set for Monday, February 23, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. The agenda was reviewed and agreed upon and will include the child clearance issue, as well as the proposal to expand Tenure Council representation presented by Senior Associate Dean Knapp at the November 14, 2014 Council meeting.

8. Other Business

None.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Graduate Council
Minutes from the February 4, 2015 Meeting**

In attendance: Adam Brode, Jessica Isaac, Kristin Kanthak, Shane Redman, Linda Rinaman, Susan Sesack, Jackie Smith, Wil Upchurch

Not in attendance: Kathleen Blee, Jerome Branche, Ron Zboray, Andrew Zentner

1. Dean's Report

Assistant Dean Linda Rinaman reported on a new initiative at the A&S-GSO Grad Expo, "Grad School 411," which is a session for undergrads to meet with graduate students to discuss graduate school and answer questions. She announced the first LGBTQIA networking event on Feb. 6 for Dietrich School graduate students who identify, or are allies, with the group. Also, Graduate Studies is hosting a 3-Minute Thesis Competition on Feb. 25 for students who are admitted to candidacy; they present their research in three minutes to a panel of judges.

Dean Rinaman explained that child abuse clearances have been mandated by the state for everyone who is a university employee, including graduate students. Graduate Studies is working with departmental administrators on implementing this for graduate students.

2. Review of minutes from November 7, 2014

Minutes were approved by the Council as submitted.

3. Economics and Political Science TA/TF training review reports

Dean Rinaman thanked the TA/TF training and orientation review teams for preparing their reports. There were no proposed changes to the reports; the Council unanimously voted to accept them. Reports will be forwarded to the departments to review and share with their students. They will be asked for a brief response, which will be shared with the Council.

The Sociology report is forthcoming.

4. Ideas for AY16 Professional Socialization Workshops

Dean Rinaman presented the workshops for AY15 and asked for suggestions for future workshops beyond those that will be offered every other year, such as the parenting workshop. Suggestions were made by the A&S-GSO and members of Council.

There will be a session at the Grad Expo on having difficult conversations. Someone from the Counseling Center will be there to moderate and Dean Rinaman is looking for faculty and graduate student volunteers who can talk about successful/unsuccessful difficult conversations to help others prepare. That session will be held on Mar. 19 at 4 p.m. in the O'Hara Student Center.

5. Safety for graduate students in the field and abroad

Dean Rinaman provided an update on the work that Associate Dean Kathleen Blee is doing to address issues of safety for graduate students conducting research abroad. UCIS has designed resource cards for graduate students and is building a website. At the fall DGS meeting, Dean Blee will present the resources and requirements for students doing research abroad.

**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Undergraduate Council
Minutes from the February 18, 2015 Meeting**

In attendance: John Twyning (chair), Elizabeth Taylor (secretary), Frank Beatrous, Rosemary Capo, Hannah Johnson, Gonzalo Lamana, Andrew Lotz, Brenton Malin, Valerie Oke, Werner Troesken, Brett Wells, Sarah Weber, Jessica Hatherill (ex officio)

Not in attendance: Larry Glasco, Bitu Moghaddam, Burcu Savun, Ethan Baker, Emily (Alyse) Johnson, Alexandra Kajari, Simrath Randhawa

1. New Business

Require General Education Requirements to be stated in course syllabi

Dietrich School-UC elected to conduct a pilot program in the fall 2015 term in which one or two select departments will be asked to list approved General Education Requirements in their course syllabi.

Existing courses approved to fulfill General Education Requirement

HIST 1091 Global Health: Historical Perspectives

- Historical Change
- Foreign Culture / International – Global

ANTH 1548 Amazonian Arts: Making and Meaning

- Second Course in Literature, the Arts, or Creative Expression
- Foreign Culture / International – Regional
- Non-Western Culture

ANTH 1708 Society, Culture and Power in Post-Conquest Cities: Istanbul, Córdoba, and Granada

- Historical Change
- Foreign Culture / International – Comparative

**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Planning and Budgeting Committee
Minutes from the November 24, 2014 Meeting**

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Kathleen Blee, Associate Dean of the College of General Studies Cristina Ruggiero, Associate Dean for Administration Dick Howe, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Assistant Dean for Business Barbara Vattimo, Director of Communications Carol Mullen, Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Professors Carol Colby, Scott Morgenstern, Luca Rigotti, and Ann Weis, Lecturers Tony Bledsoe, Svitlana Maksymenko, and Jeffrey Oaks, Staff Representative Karen Lillis, and Graduate Student Representatives Christiana Harkulich and Scott Zimmerman

Not in Attendance: Professors Daniel Balderston and Nathaniel Rosi, and Staff Representatives Linda Howard and Mat Romick

1. Minutes of the meeting held on September 15, 2014

Dean Cooper presented a draft of the minutes of the meeting held on September 15, 2014. The minutes were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

2. Dean's Report (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that Professor Terrance Hayes (English) received a MacArthur Fellowship. Student Alexandre Gauthier (Physics) was awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Alum Abul Hussam (Chemistry) received a \$1 million Grainger Challenge Award from the National Academy of Engineering. Professors Geoffrey Hutchison and Daniel Lambrecht (Chemistry) received a 2014 Camille and Henry Dreyfus Special Grant in the Chemical Sciences. Professor Alex Star (Chemistry) and a team of graduate students were winners of this year's Pitt Innovation Challenge.

3. University Statement of Aspiration and Strategic Priorities (Dean N. John Cooper)

Dean Cooper presented to the Committee the Statement of Aspiration and Strategic Priorities that was adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 28, 2014. The document indicates where the trustees envision Pitt to be headed in the next few years. Core to this is the commitment to delivering excellence in education at all levels—undergraduate, graduate, and professional.

The document is broad and inclusive and Vice Provost David DeJong is working with the trustees and the Chancellor to review Pitt's planning system so that it becomes geared to meeting these aspirations. As part of that, he is hosting environmental scan meetings as a way to obtain input from a broad range of people (see item 5 below). Dean Cooper pointed out that the videos associated with the environmental scan meeting are meant for viewing within the University only, and are not to be shared with the media. Please treat them as confidential.

4. Planning at the University of Pittsburgh (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean stated that he was pleased with the new direction in which the University planning is heading. We have been engaged in unit-level planning (e.g. producing the annual updates on the School level strategic plan), but it has sometimes been unclear how

that maps on to broader University efforts; the Provost's office is trying to fill that gap. Current conversation is about adding an institutional level statement of values and strategic drivers for programs at the University.

5. Environmental Scans (Dean N. John Cooper)

Dean Cooper strongly encouraged Committee members to watch the videos associated with the environmental scans meetings (attached to the email he sent). He encouraged members to attend, participate, and contribute to one of the sessions to which they had been invited. He reiterated that Vice Provost DeJong and his colleagues are listening, so the more input they receive the better the process and the better the outcomes will be.

6. Other Business

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.