

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

VOL. 47, NO. 4 DECEMBER 18, 2015

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Council Minutes from the November 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, Professors Don Bialostosky, Kay Brummond, Lisa Brush, Steven Finkel, Michael Goodhart, Jeffrey Hildebrand, Jeffrey Newman, and Alan Sved, Lecturers Angela Athanas and Katherine Wolfe, Graduate Student Representatives Trevienne Harris and Ling Qing Xu, and Student Government Board Representative Alex Kash

Not in Attendance: Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Professors David Bartholomae, Daniel Berkowitz, Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski, and Adriana Helbig, Lecturer Milica Hayden, and Student Government Board Representative Naomi Stoll

1. Minutes of the meeting held on September 21, 2015

A draft of the minutes of the meeting held on September 21, 2015 were distributed and approved electronically.

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

The Dean reported that Professor Marcus Rediker (History) was awarded the 2015 Richard E. O'Connor prize by the American Historical Association for his film *Ghosts of Amistad: In the Footsteps of Rebels*. Professor Yan Dong (Neuroscience) received the Jacob P. Waletzky Award from the Society for Neuroscience. Professor Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (Political Science) was named editor-in-chief of the Latin American Research Review (LARR). Professor Kay Brummond (Chemistry) was the 2015 recipient of the American Chemical Society Pittsburgh Award. Associate Professor Emily Elliott (Geology and

Environmental Science) was named Ambassador with the National Academy of Science/National Academy of Engineering Ambassador Program. Lawrence J. Simpson (A&S '74G and '78G, Social Psychology; Provost, Berklee College of Music) received a Kenneth P. Dietrich Distinguished Professional Achievement Award at the 45th Annual Jazz Seminar.

3. Results of the Nominating Committee Election (Dean N. John Cooper)

The following faculty were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee this year:

Brent Malin – Department of Communication

Jennifer Waldron – Department of English

Alison Langmead – Department of History of Art and Architecture

Margaret Judd – Department of Anthropology

Werner Troesken – Department of Economics

Michael Glass – Urban Studies Program

Mark Abbott – Department of Geology and Environmental Science

Jeff Brodsky – Department of Biological Sciences

Mark Collins – Department of Geology and Environmental Science

A total of 637 votes were tallied.

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

Associate Dean Twyning reported that Undergraduate Council (UGC) met on October 2, 2015. Undergraduate Council discussed the existing general education requirements and determined that more specific definitions should be set for Second Course in Literature, the Arts, or Creative Expression; Historical Change; Non-Western Culture; and the three branches of Foreign Culture/International requirements. Undergraduate Council also discussed modernizing the requirements to include issues such as diversity and ethics.

Undergraduate Council met again on October 23, 2015, at which Associate Dean John Twyning introduced Nancy Allen, the new Director of the Advising Center to UGC.

Dean Twyning reported that, after discussion of the pilot program to include General Education Requirements goals in course syllabi with the Department of Political Science, UGC elected to have Dean Twyning draft a document to be reviewed by council that will expand the requirement to other departments. UGC also approved the proposed changes to the Arabic Language and Linguistics certificate program. UGC elected to invite representatives from the Department of Linguistics and from the Less-Commonly-Taught Languages Center (LCTL) to a future meeting to discuss the proposal regarding subject codes. LCTL currently uses the LING subject code for all of its language, literature, and culture courses. They seek to change this configuration for a variety of reasons:

- Undergraduates have difficulty identifying the language courses because they must sort through all of the department's offerings; comparatively, languages taught by other departments are clearly identified by their subject codes.
- Lack of available space in course numbers in the upper-level (1000) range prevents graduate students from pursuing language study without express approvals from their programs; LCTL anticipates that facilitating graduate student enrollment by offering these language courses at the 1000-level will lead to higher enrollment and improved financial efficiency of the programs.
- Linguistics suffers from a lack of available course numbers in the lower-level range; retirement of the courses currently being used by LCTL will provide latitude in future course offerings with the LING subject code.
- LCTL courses are increasingly being utilized for Study Abroad programs; the expanded subject codes will allow greater flexibility in how these options are offered.
- Student transcripts will be enhanced by the new subject codes, as their LCTL language studies will be as apparent as those of

students taking courses in French, Italian, German, etc.

For these reasons, LCTL and the department would like to establish subject codes for courses in: Arabic (ARABIC); American Sign Language (ASL); Modern Greek (GREEKM); Hindi (HINDI); Irish Gaelic (IRISH); Persian (PERS); Quechua (QUECH); Swahili (SWAHIL); Swedish (SWE); Turkish (TURKSH); and Vietnamese (VIET). It would retain the LING subject code for other languages with fewer or less-frequently offered courses (e.g. Dutch, Icelandic, Tagalog, and Urdu).

UGC unanimously approved the proposal for the new Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies minor. It must now proceed to the Provost's Advisory Committee for Undergraduate Programs.

Existing courses to fulfill General Education Requirements:

- RELGST 1425/HIST 1676 Popular Religion in America
 - *Historical Change*: This course was approved unanimously to fulfill the requirement.
- RELGST 1520 Buddhist Civilization along the Silk Road
 - *Foreign Culture/International – Comparative*: This course was approved unanimously to fulfill the requirement.
 - *Non-Western Culture*: This course was approved unanimously to fulfill the requirement.
- GER 1529 Berlin: A Divided City
 - *Literature*: This course was approved unanimously to fulfill the requirement.
 - *Foreign Culture/International – Regional*: This course was approved unanimously to fulfill the requirement.

Undergraduate Council met again on November 6, 2015. Associate Dean Twyning presented an overview of the changes to Middle States standards for accreditation, the new strategic plan, and changes to the General Education Requirements that will be necessary to meet Middle States standards and be in alignment with the University's strategic plan. Proposed changes to the General Education Requirements include clarified definitions of some

existing requirements and the addition of requirements that address diversity, technological competency and information literacy, ethical thinking, and global awareness.

UGC unanimously approved the proposal for a new certificate in Sustainability. It must now proceed to the Provost's Advisory Committee for Undergraduate Programs.

UGC reviewed and unanimously approved a proposal from the Department of Studio Arts to revise their major. The revision comprises the addition of three credits to the major by inclusion of an additional introductory level course requirement; shifting six credits of History of Art and Architecture (HAA) course electives to Studio Arts (SA); moving the required writing-intensive course from HAA to SA; and eliminating the HAA related area requirement for students pursuing double majors, minors, and/or certificates. The changes respond to areas for improvement as identified by the Department's annual assessment process.

The report was moved, seconded, and approved.

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

Associate Dean Kathleen Blee reported that the Dietrich School Graduate Council met on September 30, 2015. Council discussed initiatives in graduate studies for 2016-2017, including the assessment of attrition from graduate programs; the competitiveness of offers to prospective graduate students; placement, diversity, pedagogical training, and support for graduate student instructors; and safety training for students working abroad and at Pitt. Graduate Council voted to review TA/TF training and procedures in the Departments of Biological Sciences, Communications, and Philosophy. A subcommittee of Graduate Council is developing a guide for faculty who mentor graduate students that will use up-to-date scholarship to provide advice on how to create and sustain effective mentoring relationships and how to mentor diverse graduate students.

Associate Dean Blee reported that Graduate Council reviewed the results of graduate student responses on the Pitt subsample of the 2015 AAU Campus

Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. The Graduate Council is discussing how to strengthen training about sexual assault and sexual misconduct policies and promote institutional cultures to reduce future problems. Council requested that a copy of the AAU summary be sent electronically, including the link to the full survey results.

The report was moved, seconded, and approved.

6. Election of the Faculty Grants Committee (Dean N. John Cooper)

Dean Cooper informed Council that the Faculty Grants Committee (FGC) distributes two types of funding to winners of the faculty grants competition held each year. The Committee, instituted through actions of Council in the 1970s, is deliberately weighted towards the Humanities to ensure support of proposals less likely to have access to Federal grants and funds. It is the responsibility of Council to elect the Committee, and the Dean presented via paper ballot the final slate of candidates for the Committee as provided by FGC Chair Rob Ruck; he asked Council to make their selections and leave them with Jessi.

7. Other Business

Professor Michael Goodhart inquired about the initiative regarding an undergraduate Public Health program. Dean Cooper informed Council that the prospective certificate was initiated by a proposal by a group of students, and the relevant Deans are meeting to discuss it.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Planning and Budgeting Committee Minutes from the November 16, 2015 Meeting

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean for Administration Dick Howe, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies Kathleen Blee, Executive Director for Financial and Physical Resources Patrick Cunningham,

Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Assistant Dean for Business Barbara Vattimo, Professors Carol Colby, Adriana Helbig, and Nathaniel Rosi, Lecturer Gretchen Bender, Staff Representatives Alana Dunn and Mat Romick, and Graduate Student Representatives Allison Cullen Doyle and Lindsay Taraban

Not in Attendance: Associate Dean for College of General Studies Cristina Ruggiero, Director of Communications Carol Mullen, Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Professors Scott Morgenstern, Luca Rigotti, and Anne Weis, Lecturers Anthony Bledsoe and Svitlana Maksymenko, Staff Representative Linda Howard, and Graduate Student Representative Melissa Yang

Dean Cooper introduced Patrick Cunningham, the new Executive Director of Financial and Planning Resources. The Dean also asked PBC members to introduce themselves.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on April 29, 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on April 29, 2015 were distributed and approved electronically.

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

The Dean reported that Professor Marcus Rediker (History) was awarded the 2015 Richard E. O'Connor prize by the American Historical Association for his film *Ghosts of Amistad: In the Footsteps of Rebels*. Professor Yan Dong (Neuroscience) received the Jacob P. Waletzky Award from the Society for Neuroscience. Professor Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (Political Science) was named editor-in-chief of the *Latin American Research Review* (LARR). Professor Kay Brummond (Chemistry) was the 2015 recipient of the American Chemical Society Pittsburgh Award. Associate Professor Emily Elliott (Geology and Environmental Science) was named an Ambassador with the National Academy of Science/National Academy of Engineering Ambassador Program. Lawrence J. Simpson (A&S '74G and '78G, Social Psychology; Provost, Berklee College of Music) received a Kenneth P. Dietrich Distinguished Professional Achievement Award at the 45th Annual Jazz Seminar.

Dean Cooper reflected on the possibility that the Commonwealth budget impasse will come to resolution before Thanksgiving break. The University and School are operating without specific budget allocations. There

is not concern that the resolution will cause any crisis at the University; however, it is uncertain what the University will do about compensation levels for faculty and staff.

3. The Plan for Pitt (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Plan for Pitt is a document that the University has developed that was adopted by the Trustees earlier this summer. The vision in the Plan for Pitt booklet is not detailed but it makes clear the University's priorities. At the School level, we most centrally aim for excellence in education and impact through pioneering research, but we are also involved the other strategic priorities. It is our job to utilize resources in a cost-effective manner, with the Dean supporting budgets with funds from donors whenever the opportunity arises.

The phrase "excellence in education" is intended to include education at all levels - undergraduate, graduate and professional. The previous facilities plan enabled us to take care of much needed renovations of laboratories and major improvements in Humanities spaces in the Cathedral, and we will propose the next generation of projects for the new facilities plan.

The Associate Deans are involved in University conversations on what happens next, but, most importantly, School-level strategic planning must align with the overall University Plan.

4. Strategic Planning Instructions for this year (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Scorecard provided by the Office of the Provost is an institution-wide initiative. It will not be looked at line by line; the numbers are intended to be helpful and ideas for creative ways to measure outcomes queried by the Scorecard are welcome. The Dietrich School is doing very well with certain indicators—research funding year is up 8% year to date after a record year last year.

The Planning and Budgeting Committee will not be expected to do anything drastically different this year; it will be beneficial to update our plan, but most importantly we must reconfigure the Dietrich School Strategic Plan so that it aligns with the University's Strategic Plan. Finally, staff organization will be a priority, and that area now falls under "building foundational strength."

5. Gallup Alumni Survey (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Gallup Alumni Survey was presented by Vice Provost Juan Manfredi at the November 12 meeting of the Council of Deans. It explores the quality of the Pitt experience and explores what happens with students after life at Pitt. It is a standardized survey that takes place regularly at a broad range of institutions.

The Dietrich School bench marks well in the data relative to peer schools, but the School needs to look at the data comprehensively as we move forward.

6. Staff Planning Overview (Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard)

Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard provided an update on the ongoing strategic staff planning process. Following the VERP, the School was forced to think about staffing in new ways as positions were lost and not approved for replacement. We continue to be held to current staffing levels.

Over the last three years, we have piloted several staffing models; we've worked to assess the way we do business; and we've been considering future priorities with regard to staffing needs. The University's strategic planning process now gives us an opportunity to consider staffing changes in a proactive way that will meet the priorities of building foundational strength and using resources effectively.

A staff committee was created and charged with developing proposals for new staffing designs that will streamline and balance workloads; ensure consistent expectations for responsibilities and consistent accountability; improve service; create career ladders and development opportunities for staff; ensure back-ups are robust; and meet the anticipated updates to regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The committee was also charged with recommending areas where additional staff support is needed and where technology can assist in further streamlining our processes. Members of the committee include Monika Losagio and Natalie Schweninger (Humanities), Lorrie Robbins and Mat Romick (Natural Sciences), Linda Howard and Kimberly Thomas (Social Sciences), and Mark Burdsall (Organization Development).

Information about the staff planning process was presented at the Fall Chairs and Directors Meeting and the Fall Administrators Meeting. The next step will be meeting with department chairs and program directors

as well as with staff from across the School for input and feedback.

7. Research Initiatives (Dean N. John Cooper)

Dean Cooper noted that he is talking with the Provost about investments in faculty to forward educational excellence and research of impact. The School has coordinated well with the University in regards to themes and initiatives in order to achieve high impact in research—there has been progress in the sustainability area, resulting in new faculty hires for the Geology and Environmental Science and Political Science departments; and there was a hire for the Brain Institute, specifically in Psychology, with another search underway. Other areas under consideration include the impact of global climate change and a Social Science research incubator that would support Social Science infrastructure and tie into the University's big data initiative. There have been two meetings with the Humanities Council that began under the rubric "Digital Humanities", but have now broadened to reflect the theme of "re-imagining the human in the digital age".

Dean Cooper hopes to develop these and related ideas to provide a framework for new initiatives, and he is interested in input from others regarding topics we should consider. He invited questions or suggestions.

8. Other Business

Dean Cooper summarized that ways to merge planning at the School level with University planning will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee to ensure that we are aligned with University priorities.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Dietrich School Faculty Research Grants 2016-2017 Competition

The Faculty Grants Committee announces that support will once again be available in fiscal year 2016-2017 for Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences faculty research projects in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, including proposals of an inter-disciplinary nature.

The application deadline is **Friday, January 29, 2016**, though the Committee would appreciate having applications as soon as possible.

Individual grants will be made in two categories:

Type I. Third Term Research Stipends of \$4,000 for research activities in lieu of teaching. The purpose of this type of grant is to enable faculty members to be free from teaching duties during the Third Term in order to work full time on research projects.

Type II. Research Expense Grants in support of specific project expenses such as microfilming, research materials, travel to libraries and other sources of information and clerical assistance. Actual expenses from \$100 to \$3,500 will be considered. Full funding, even for successful proposals, cannot be guaranteed.

Eligibility is limited to tenure-stream or tenured Dietrich School faculty on the Oakland campus. Restrictions regarding eligibility for Type I and Type II funding are specified later in this announcement. Please read these carefully.

Applications for both types of grants must be received by the Committee Chair by Friday, January 29, 2016. **No late proposals will be accepted.** All applicants will receive confirmation that their application has been received. For Type II grants, no funds can be disbursed until July 1, 2016; however, the research projects of grant recipients may begin before that date. For Type I grants, stipends will be included with July 31, 2016 paychecks unless funds become available which may allow the stipends to be included in May and/or June salaries. Awards will be announced in the beginning of April. Unfortunately, this Committee cannot provide applicants with individual evaluations of proposals.

Application Format and Restrictions are explained in the following paragraphs of this announcement. Further information can be obtained from the Committee Chair, Rob Ruck (Telephone: 412.648.7539, E-mail: rucco@pitt.edu)

ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please follow these directions carefully!

TYPE I.

THIRD TERM RESEARCH STIPENDS OF \$4,000

To be eligible for a Type I stipend the applicant must not be employed during the Third Term in any way which makes it impossible to devote maximum time to research. Priority is given to faculty in the lower ranks and to those who have not previously received such a grant. Research projects for which funds are generally available from other sources will receive low priority.

Application Format: The application consists of four parts: (1) A cover sheet and current CV, including mention of all previous grants with amount and year; (2) an abstract summarizing the proposal in simple terms; (3) the proposal itself; and (4) a title sheet and self-addressed (campus) envelope. No application will be accepted unless it contains a current CV.

1. The cover sheet should be appended to a current CV and include the following information in the order listed here: (A) name of applicant, (B) faculty rank, (C) department, (D) university mailing address and extension, (E) applications pending or funding expected for the same period or the same research, (F) type of grant (I or II), and (G) title of research project. Please indicate previous funding, both internal and external.

Faculty members who have received a Dietrich School grant within the last five years should also submit a brief (one to two paragraphs) statement describing the results of the project(s) funded.

2. The abstract (100-200 words) should summarize the proposal in simple terms.

3. The proposal should be written in such a manner that members of the Committee who are not experts in your field can understand your proposal. Technical jargon should be avoided.

Applicants are encouraged to bear in mind that the evaluators represent a wide range of disciplines in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The proposal should contain:

- (A) a statement of the problem;
- (B) the objectives and expected significance of the research;
- (C) if applicable to your field, the relationship of the research to the present state of knowledge in the field (with

appropriate bibliographic references), a description of your own related previous work or, for applicants in writing or the arts, representative samples of your work; and (D) methods or procedure (how you expect to reach the stated objectives) and, if applicable, a description of data collection techniques and analysis.

The proposal itself should be limited to **six double-spaced pages including bibliographic references**. No offprints, photocopies, tapes or other examples of previous work should be enclosed. **Proposals that do not follow this format will not be reviewed.**

4. The title sheet and self-addressed envelope will be returned to the applicant to verify receipt of the proposal.

Copies: Twelve copies of the application should be sent to the Committee Chair, Rob Ruck, Department of History, 3517 Posvar Hall.

TYPE I. RESTRICTIONS

Faculty members who have contractual obligations, including cash advances for writing, or those engaged in traditionally compensated Third Term (summer) teaching or administrative assignments, or with any other University or sponsored research summer salary support, are not eligible for these grants. Any grants allocated by the committee to faculty subsequently found to be ineligible will be cancelled.

Grants are not given for projects known to be lucrative commercial ventures, dissertation research, or curriculum development.

TYPE II. RESEARCH EXPENSE GRANTS

Type II grants are given to cover specific research project expenses for which other sources of funding are not available. Priority is given to faculty in the lower ranks and to new research projects; however, well-justified expenses for successful projects in the later stages of development are also considered.

Application Format: The application format for a Type II grant is the same as for a Type I grant, with the addition of a detailed budget.

The Budget: On a separate page, the project expenses should be itemized and justified in reasonable detail. Travel expenses should be explained in detail; transportation costs

will be limited to coach class airfare. Applicants should submit the most recent airfare quotes from one of the University-designated travel agencies.

Copies: Twelve copies of the application should be sent to the Committee Chair, Rob Ruck, Department of History, 3517 Posvar Hall.

TYPE II. RESTRICTIONS

Type II grants are not given for:

- travel for the purpose of attending conferences or symposia
- projects known to be lucrative commercial ventures
- dissertation research
- curriculum development
- travel for purposes of research that is otherwise funded
- materials or equipment which can be borrowed or are readily available locally
- typing of manuscripts

Library materials acquired under a grant are to be deposited in the University library when they are no longer needed for the project.

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.