

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Council Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2023
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
(via Zoom)

Council Members present: Dean Kathleen Blee (Chair), Associate Dean for Faculty Kay Brummond (Vice Chair); Elected Members: Drew Armstrong, Russell Clark, Jon Johnson, Haitao Liu, Laura Lovett, Svitlana Maksymenko, Kathleen Manukyan, Scott Morgenstern, Susan Sesack; Divisional Chair Representatives: Lisa Brush, Arthur Kosowsky, Todd Reeser; Graduate Student Representative: Rebecca Matecha

Council Members not present: Elected Members: Neepa Majumdar, Tymofiy Mylovanov, Serena Rivera; Graduate Student Representative: Yasha Kaushal; Student Government Board Representatives: Derek Dressler, Mathavan Murali

Dean's Office Personnel present: Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development Adam Leibovich, Executive Director of Administration Jessica Hatherill, Director of Dean's Office Operations Lisa Lang, Administrative Coordinator Z Taylor, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and CGS John Twyning, and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies Jonathan Woon

Dean's Office Personnel not present: Executive Administrator Christine Trotman

Minutes

Dean Blee welcomed the Council members and thanked them for attending.

1. Dean's Report (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Dean Blee informed Council members that the English Language Institute (ELI) is going to cease operations at the end of June, 2023. Dietrich School students previously served by the ELI will be handled by the Department of Linguistics. Dean Blee reminded Council members that they are welcome to email topics for discussion in Council meetings.

Dean Blee shared the following announcements.

- Jamie Hanson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, and Cory Holding, Teaching Professor in the Department of English (Composition program), were recognized with the Award for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring.
- James Cassaro, Professor in the Department of Music, received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize the Mirskey Collection of silent film music that is archived at Pitt.
- Ryan Hardesty, Dietrich School alum of History and Political Science (A&S '08), was named 2023 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. Hardesty teaches US History and World History at Highland Middle School (Blackhawk School District).
- Olga Klimova, Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Megan Kappel, part-time faculty member in the Department of English, received the

2022 Provost's Award for Diversity in the Curriculum.

- Armin Schikorra, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics, has been selected as a Humboldt Research Fellow. As a Humboldt Fellow, Dr. Schikorra will engage in research stays at the University of Bielefeld for 6-12 months within the next three years.
- Kyle Wyche, Dietrich School alum of Ecology and Evolution (A&S '19), won the 2022 TransTech Energy Evolving Energy Technology Showcase for his startup Ecotone Renewables. The company pitched for a system to turn food waste into fertilizer.
- Ruth Mostern, Professor in the Department of History, has been awarded a Digital Humanities Advancement Grant in support of her World Historical Gazetteer project.
- Chandralekha Singh, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, has been awarded a Distinguished Alumna Award by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur. Singh received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in physics from IIT.

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

Associate Dean Twyning presented the Dietrich School Undergraduate Council report. Council voted to accept the report with 14 accepting, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

November 15, 2022

Individual courses to fulfill new General Education Requirements

- ASL 1700 ASL-BSL Comparative
 - Geographic Region
- JS/RLGST 1622 Gender and Body Size from a Global Perspective
 - Global Awareness
- LING 1810 Statistics for Research Linguistics
 - Quantitative Reasoning
- LING 1930 Applications of Linguistics
 - Social Science

November 29, 2022

Individual courses to fulfill new General Education Requirements

- ANTH 1560 Politics in Prehistory
 - Historical Analysis
 - Cross-Cultural Awareness
- ANTH 1570 Molecular Archaeology
 - Natural Science
- COMMRC 1115 African American Rhetoric
 - Diversity
- ENGLIT 0762 Childhood Games
 - Creative Work
- URBNST 0410 Analyzing and Exploring the Global City-London
 - Geographic Region

3. Report from the College of General Studies Council (Associate Dean John Twyning)

Associate Dean Twyning presented the College of General Studies Council report.

November 17, 2022

- Summary of Non-Traditional Student Week was provided by Boryana

Dobрева, Anna Yatsko, and Saharsh Talwar

- The results of the survey “Online Course Design: The CGS Approach” were discussed
- The Campos Report “Re-Focusing on the Non-Traditional Student: Insights and Recommendations” were discussed.
- There was discussion regarding CGS’ identity and rebranding

4. Report from Dietrich School Graduate Council (Associate Dean Jonathan Woon)

Associate Dean Woon presented the Dietrich School Graduate Council report. Council voted to accept the report with 12 accepting and 0 opposed.

December 5, 2022 Meeting

Associate Dean’s Updates

- TA/TF review for Department of Slavic Languages and Literature is ongoing, report expected in January
- UCC offering workshop on supporting graduate student mental health and wellbeing for Dietrich faculty on December 12

Assistant Dean’s Updates

- Working with GSO leadership to combine 3MT competition with Grad Expo.
- Revising/expanding HMB program in progress.

Discussion

- Council discussed best practices, processes, systems, structures to encourage and recognize good mentoring and advising. Stressed value of fostering multiple mentoring

relationships within and outside of one’s department, for advice in different areas (e.g., coursework, teaching, professional development, writing, publication, networking, etc). UC Berkeley guidelines for evaluating mentoring and advising may be useful model. Intrigued by mention of “point systems” used at other universities to ensure equitable advising effort across faculty. Biological Sciences established mentoring committee within department, with goal of having students talk to faculty who are not their mentor. Students in Geology and Environmental Science took initiative to develop mentoring worksheet for advisors and student to ensure they communicated about necessary topics. University resources include Graduate Global Ties Peer Mentoring program for international students, Center for Mentoring (part of CTL).

- No formal actions were taken by Graduate Council.

January 9, 2023 Meeting

Associate Dean’s Updates

- UCGS is beginning to undertake different policy revisions this spring. Associate Dean Woon is co-chairing subcommittee on graduate faculty status and regulations; other subcommittee will revise university guidance for graduate mentoring and advising. Joint UCGS & PACUP subcommittees will work on advanced standing credit, academic program structure and dual degree, academic probation and suspension, course repeats and G grades.

- Follow up from December discussion on mentoring, suggested looking into CIMER (Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experience in Research): <http://cimerproject.org>

Assistant Dean's Updates:

- GSO: Union reps talking about grad students unionizing
- Grad students are bringing up at the provost level a request for funding adjustments (recent increase is not close to cost of living).
- Academic integrity: No mention of self-plagiarizing in the written policy about this. When publishing in journals they do check for this. We may want to think about our terminology.

Discussion

- Subcommittee presented report of TA/TF Review for Department of Slavic Languages and Literature. Training is thoughtful. Students have clear path that takes them through the program. Exposed to all aspects of teaching commonly expected in the field once they enter the job market. Culture is collectively committed to good teaching. Faculty takes collective interest in developing students to be good teachers. Close involvement of alumni. Flattened hierarchy – students are fellow instructors and not seen as just assistants. Very successful Russian Fairy Tales course “runs like a machine” important to TA/TF training, including opportunity to guest lecture.
- Graduate Council approved the DSLT TA/TF review report.

5. Spring 2023 Full Faculty Meeting (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Dean Blee informed Council members that the agenda for the spring 2023 Full Faculty Meeting will be the new budget model. Council members chose Thursday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m. as the date and time for the meeting.

6. ChatGPT (Annette Vee, Associate Professor in the Department of English and Director of the Composition Program)

Dean Blee welcomed Annette Vee from the Department of English, who discussed the implications of automated writing platforms in the academic setting.

7. Other Business

With no other business presented, Dean Blee adjourned the meeting.

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Planning and Budget Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 2, 2023

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(via Zoom)

Council Members present: Dean Kathleen Blee (Chair), Associate Deans: Kay Brummond, Adam Leibovich, John Twyning, Jonathan Woon; Staff Members: Joseph Begley, Meg Caruso, Kristin Hopkins; Dietrich School Graduate Students: Caitlin Dahl, Haoran Hu

Council Members not present: Elected Members: Meredith Guthrie, Lina Insana, Valerie Oke, Lara Putnam, John Stoner; Appointed Members: Haitao Liu, Neepa Majumdar; Scott Morgenstern; Dietrich School Graduate Student: Sinan Dogan

Resource Personnel present: Executive Director for Administration Jessica Hatherill, Executive

Director for Financial and Physical Resources
Patrick Cunningham, Sr. Executive Director of
Development Tom Golightly, Executive Director
for Undergraduate Studies and CGS Derek Fischer,
Director of Dean's Office Operations Lisa Lang,
Director of Communication and Undergraduate
Recruitment Carol Mullen, Senior Director of
Business and Finance Mathew Romick,
Administrative Coordinator Z Taylor

Minutes

1. Welcome

Dean Blee welcomed the committee members and provided an overview of this year's RCRP submission.

Pat Cunningham reviewed the capital projects included in the submission.

– Adam Leibovich provided additional information on the Quantum Information Core project.

Jessica Hatherill provided additional information on proposed renovations to Posvar Hall and Thackeray Hall as they are part of the

effort to refocus the College of General Studies on its original vision of serving nontraditional students and offering online content.

Committee members voted unanimously to accept the RCRP.

Dean Blee informed Committee members that the next meeting will address priorities that were set for last year and assess those results, and that the third meeting will set priorities for the upcoming year.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences

»»»»» **Gazette**

